

912

PUBLIC
CHARACTERS

OF

1798-9.

A NEW EDITION.

ENLARGED AND CORRECTED TO THE 25TH OF MARCH, 1799.

" — — — — I with no other herald,
" No other speaker of my *living actions*,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But such an honest chronicler — — —."

HEN. viii. Act 4. Sc. 2.

" — — — Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
" Ærugo mera; quod vitium precul afore chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
" Possum aliud vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

LONDON:

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1799.

PUBLIC
CHARACTERS

1798-9.

A NEW EDITION.

REPRINTED AND CORRECTED TO THE 25TH OF MARCH, 1799.

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TO THE KING,

THESE

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS

OF SOME OF THE

MOST DISTINGUISHED OF

HIS MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS,

ARE MOST HUMBLY

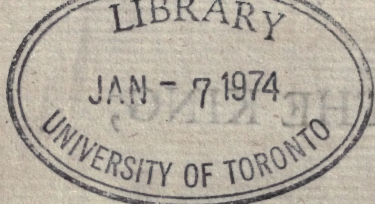
AND MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED;

BY HIS MAJESTY'S

DUTIFUL SUBJECTS AND SERVANTS,

THE EDITORS.

London, April 10th, 1799.



DA

522

A1 P2

1798/99

*In September next will be published, the Second
Volume of this Work, consisting of Memoirs of
living Public Characters of 1799-1800.*

ERRATA.

- Page 156, 13th line from the top, for " in the Summer of 1768,"
read " in the Summer of 1758."
- Page 161, 5th line from the bottom, for " reflecting the greatest honour
his on head and heart," read " reflecting the greatest honour on
his head and heart."
- Page 260, line 13, for " Thurstaston, in Lincolnshire," read " Thur-
caston, in Leicestershire."

PREFACE

TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

THE object of the Work which is now submitted to the Public, is to exhibit, in the memoirs of the illustrious actors, the public and secret history of the present times. Respectable works, of a similar description, have been published in various countries on the continent; none, however, have hitherto been attempted, upon the same plan, in this country.

BIOGRAPHY, in all its forms, is allowed to be the most fascinating and instructive species of literary composition. It not only possesses all the advantages of general history, the various excellencies of which may be judiciously interwoven with the lives of eminent personages, but it frequently discovers the minute and latent springs of great events, which, in the comprehensive range of History, would have escaped attention.

Many of the attractions of Biography in general, and some additional advantages, are possessed by *contemporary Biography*. The memoirs of men, who are the present actors on the great theatre of life, who acquire and demand public confidence, and from whom further results of action or meditation are to be expected, neces-

farily excite a higher degree of curiosity, than the lives of those who have made their exit from the stage, by whom no future good or evil can be performed or perpetrated, and who, "dead, gone, and forgotten," are generally carried down the stream of oblivion, and swallowed up in the gulph of unregistered mortality.

It must be admitted, that the biographer of deceased persons is better enabled, by the independence of his situation, and a more extensive retrospect, to estimate the degree of virtue and vice, and to appreciate the sum total of merit and demerit with greater precision, than the contemporary biographer, who is restrained, by the extreme delicacy of his undertaking, from giving the finishing stroke to his delineations of character, whose incomplete materials prevent him from deducing general and important conclusions in their proper latitude, and, in many cases, from discriminating between hypocrisy and sincerity. Still, however, a writer of this description is better able to collect facts, and may, in general, be more depended upon, as to the authenticity of his testimony, than he who writes the lives of deceased persons. Many eminent men, respecting whom posterity have cause to lament the deficiency of biographical information, have passed their early days in obscurity, and those who then knew them were either too ignorant, or too unobservant, to be able to make any communications respecting them.

them. When death has once set his seal upon their labours, few or no opportunities offer of obtaining satisfactory and circumstantial information; their early contemporaries are, probably, also gone off the stage. From causes like these, how little is known of some of the most distinguished luminaries that have irradiated the political and literary hemispheres! Of many we know only that they filled elevated situations, that they composed splendid works, made important discoveries, died in a particular year, and were at length interred in some venerable repository of the dead.

An annual publication like the present will best provide against a future deficiency of this kind, with respect to the distinguished personages who now fill up the drama of public life in the British empire. The Editors are not likely to commit themselves, and the reputation of their work, by inserting direct falsehoods, or partial misrepresentations: no character, of whom they now or may hereafter treat, can be thought insensible to the love of contemporary or posthumous fame; hence, should any undesigned error, or any inaccurate statement, inadvertently escape them, it may be rationally presumed, that the party affected, from a regard to his own reputation, will take the earliest opportunity to correct such mistatements; or that some friend, intimately acquainted with the subject, in the candour and warmth of esteem, may be stimulated to

write a more particular and accurate account, for a subsequent edition.

From these premises * may it not be reasonably concluded, that this Work possesses a legitimate claim to public patronage, as well from its promised utility to future biographers and historians, as from its being an highly entertaining and useful assemblage of interesting and important facts and anecdotes ?

In respect to the present volume, it is necessary to remark, that the articles are written by a number of gentlemen, whose adopted signatures are affixed to their respective communications. Such a multiplicity of facts, in so extensive and various a group of characters, could not have been supplied by any one or two individuals. Although a delicate task, the mode generally adopted in the composition of this Work, has been to apply to some friend of the party, whose intimate knowledge of the relative facts and circumstances qualified him to do ample justice to the character. This indispensable arrangement, requisite to produce the faithful execution of the volume, has, however, occasioned a variety in the style and manner of the several articles, which, at first sight,

* Beside other arguments which may be urged in recommendation of this novel undertaking, the Editors might quote the example of some of the most illustrious men in all ages and nations, who have judged it proper to write their own memoirs, and to publish them during their lifetime.

may give it a sort of heterogeneous appearance, but will not detract from its real merit in the estimation of the judicious reader.

It is possible that a fastidious observer, or other person more intimately connected with the subject of the several memoirs, may here and there detect some venial error, some trifling anachronism, or apparent misconstruction; for these the Editors can only atone, by expressing their earnest wish for more correct information, which will be thankfully received, and punctually attended to in a future edition. That some inaccuracies are unavoidable in a work of this nature, must naturally be expected by every person accustomed to habits of literary composition, or who possesses sufficient knowledge of the complicated occurrences which mark the career of public and private life.

The Editors are more seriously apprehensive lest, in any instance whatever, they should unfortunately and unintentionally be a means of wounding the acute sensibility, the laudable ambition, or the generous pride of any individual:—no procedure could be more alien to their wishes and intentions. Any representation on the part of those who may think themselves aggrieved, which may be transmitted to the Editors, shall be treated with marked deference and attention. The most scrupulous caution has been exercised, to divest the *tout ensemble* of every appearance of national and political partialities. *No attachment*

to any particular set of men or opinions, no prejudices against men in place, no prepossessions in favour of men out of place, no bias towards any controverted points of theology, no personal antipathies, no invidious disposition to detract from acknowledged virtue or merit, have influenced, in whole or in part, the conduct of the Projector and Conductors of the Work.

If the^e present volume should be honoured by a degree of approbation and patronage correspondent to the anxious wishes and expectations of the Editors, it is their design to present the Public with a similar volume in the course of the year 1799, and to continue the work in each succeeding year. That there will be abundant materials for such a continuation must be obvious, when it is considered, that the following illustrious and prominent characters are omitted in the present volume, only for want of room or competent materials: the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Duke of Grafton, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Kenyon, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Sheridan, Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland, Earl Howe, Earl St. Vincent, Lord Bridport, Lord Auckland, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir Joseph Banks, Mr. West, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Wyndham, the Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Somerville, and nearly three hundred other eminent and remarkable persons, connected with the political and literary world.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE rapid and almost unprecedented sale of the first edition of these *Memoirs* has stimulated the exertions of the Editors, and enabled them to lay a **NEW EDITION** before the Public, which is enlarged, corrected, and improved, in every article. The alterations are, indeed, so very considerable, as to render the *Work* almost entirely new; and they are derived from sources so undeniably authentic, as no less to have increased the value of the *Volume*, than they have obviously added to its bulk. Although it cannot be asserted, that all the *Characters*, even in the new edition, are drawn with an equal degree of accuracy and precision, the candid and well-informed reader will, however, acknowledge, that as a collection of new and original facts, the *Work* has a strong claim to public attention.

The same endeavour to avoid giving place to impertinent and injurious calumnies, which was so successfully exerted in the first edition, has prevailed in the conduct of the second. The Editors should, indeed, think they never could sufficiently atone to any individual, whose feelings they might injure through inadvertence or misinformation. Again and again they earnestly intreat the communication of errors, or misstatements, that these may be properly inserted in future editions, or subjoined as addenda to the present.

* * Communications for the Second Volume, or Corrections of the present, are requested to be addressed, without Delay, to Mr. PHILLIPS, No. 71, St. Paul's Church-Yard.

CONTENTS.

*The Portraits are also given of those marked with the *.*

	Page.
1. THE EARL OF MOIRA*	1
2. MR. ROSCOE	25
3. SIR JOHN SINCLAIR*	33
4. THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL	65
5. MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND*	74
6. MR. FOX*	79
7. MR. PITT*	103
8. DR. DARWIN*	117
9. SIR G. L. STAUNTON	124
10. MR. THOMAS TAYLOR*	127
11. GENERAL MELVILLE	149
12. THE BISHOP OF LONDON*	162
13. DEAN TUCKER	170
14. LORD DUNCAN*	182
15. THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER*	191
16. MR. JUSTICE BULLER*	205
17. DR. WOLCOTT	209
18. THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY*	216
19. MR. ARTHUR MURPHY*	222
20. THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH	229
21. THE BISHOP OF DURHAM	231
22. MR. KING (THE COMEDIAN)	234
23. THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER	240
24. MR. JACKSON, OF EXETER	242
25. LORD MALMSBURY	246
26. DR. JOSEPH WHITE	252
27. THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER	260
28. THE EARL OF BUCHAN	264
29. MR. NORTHCOTE, R.A.	269
30. THE BISHOP OF LLANDAFF	272
31. MR. HENRY ERSKINE	282
32. LORD CHARLEMONT	286
33. MR. GRATTAN*	295
34. SIR W. SYDNEY SMITH	315
35. DR. THOMAS HAWES*	320
36. MR. DUNDAS*	325
37. LORD KILWARDEN	356
38. MR. CURRAN	359
39. MR. DAINES BARRINGTON	370
40. DR. O'LEARY	372
41. LORD YELVERTON	374
42. MR.	

CONTENTS.

42. MR. ISAAC CORRY	379
43. MR. JOHN BERESFORD	383
44. MR. JOHN FORSTER	386
45. DR. BURNEY*	391
46. DR. HERSCHEL*	396
47. MR. JUSTICE GROSE	405
48. MR. KEMBLE*	406
49. MISS SEWARD	410
50. THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND	412
51. MR. CUMBERLAND	420
52. SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD	424
53. MRS. SIDDONS	426
54. SIR JOHN SCOTT	431
55. THE DUKE OF NORFOLK	434
56. DR. TOWERS*	438
57. LORD THURLOW	445
58. THE MARQUIS CORNWALLIS*	457
59. DR. PRIESTLEY*	468
60. MISS MORE	476
61. MR. ALDERMAN BOYDELL*	485
62. MR. GEORGE DYER*	495
63. MR. D'ISRAELI*	502
64. MR. DAVID WILLIAMS*	507
65. THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY	515
66. LORD NELSON*	518
67. LORD MONBODDO	530
68. LORD HOOD*	554
69. MR. GILBERT WAKEFIELD*	566
70. MR. OPIE, R.A.	582
71. LORD ROKEBY	585

Portraits given in the Frontispiece, most of which are striking Likenesses, and all of them strongly characteristic.

1. LORD NELSON.	16. DR. HERSCHEL.
2. EARL MOIRA.	17. JUDGE BULLER.
3. ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.	18. SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.
4. LORD HOOD.	19. DR. HAWEIS.
5. CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.	20. BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.
6. MR. KEMBLE.	21. MR. PITT.
7. MR. THOMAS TAYLOR.	22. MR. DUNDAS.
8. DR. TOWERS.	23. LORD DUNCAN.
9. MR. FOX.	24. MR. A. NEWLAND.
10. MR. DAVID WILLIAMS.	25. MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.
11. MR. D'ISRAELI.	26. MR. BERESFORD.
12. MR. GEORGE DYER.	27. BISHOP OF LONDON.
13. DR. PRIESTLEY.	28. DR. DARWIN.
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15. ALDERMAN BOYDELL.	30. MR. GRATTAN.

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"The work before us is highly interesting in respect to the agriculture and manual arts of the Chinese, for both of which subjects the author seems to have a taste. He is also anxious to describe every thing that tends to the extension of the commerce, or manufactures of that great empire. The imagination of the author does not appear to have been misled by the romantic descriptions of his predecessors: on the contrary, his information frequently assumes the appearance of a contradictory intrusion upon their reveries, and dissolves the spell of their enchantments. The translation seems to be executed with more than usual attention."

Analytical Review, February.

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New London Review, March.

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Analytical Review, November.

"This very amusing collection of original Anecdotes has anticipated by its sale the necessity of our rardy approbation: it will suffice if we select some passages, that are characteristic of the spirit of the work,

PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1798.

EARL MOIRA.

*Iustum et tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni,
Mente quatit solidâ, neque Auster
Dux iniqui turbidus Adriæ,
Nec fulminantis magna Jovis manus :
Si fractus illabatur orbis,
Impavidum ferient ruinæ.*

HOR.

FRANCIS, Lord Rawdon, Earl of Moira,—a name worthy to be pronounced by men of all parties, with respect,—was born on the 7th day of December, in the year 1754.

Even in infancy, he began to exhibit eminent marks of that ardour and firmness of soul, which are the primary ingredients of heroism. Like the great Turenne, he conceived an early passion for the perils and the darings of a military life. During the progress of his education, his favourite boyish amusements were imitative of the arts of war. At ten years of age, he was severely wounded in the leg, by the bursting of one of several brass guns, which he was eagerly pointing, to batter an old folio volume. In the books which were put into his hands ; human characters, remark-

able for calm intrepidity in the midst of dangers; for fortitude under the extremity of human suffering; for a courage kindling into bolder exertion and keener enjoyment, in proportion as the opposition it encounters, becomes more terrible; were those which chiefly interested his curiosity, excited his admiration, and inflamed his heart with emulative ambition.

He delighted to commit to memory, and would often repeat, with high emotion, such sentiments, as those in which Zanga, in the tragedy of the *Revenge*, is made to triumph, in expectation of the agonies of the rack; or that with which Damien contemplated the approach of the day for his execution, and its close*; or that of the Spanish proverb, which asserts, that the *last* of human ills, however otherwise formidable, yet, because it is the *last*, is ever to be regarded as a light one†. His education was conducted, with every advantage, which his rank and fortune could bestow, for the culture of youthful qualities of such fair promise; yet, without being directed to encourage his infant passion for martial enterprize. His ardour for military glory, was, however, confirmed and augmented, while he advanced to manhood. Foreign travel, through those countries on the continent, which have been long accounted the favourite seats of refinement, gave the last polish to his manners,

* *La journée sera dure—mais elle se passera.*

† *Ningummal a'ya granda, si es postero.*

and a farther enlargement to his sentiments, before his entrance into public life. About the time of the commencement of the American war, he became an officer in the British army.

With his regiment, he gladly embarked for America. In the memorable battle of Bunker's-hill, he served in the condition of lieutenant of the fifth company of grenadiers. He was one of only seven, out of the whole company, who remained unhurt in that action. But, two shots, received in his cap, sufficiently evinced, that he had braved danger to the very teeth. And, it was the judgment of the late General Burgoyne, that this young nobleman had, even on the day of Bunker's-hill alone, atchieved enough to cover his whole life with glory*. He was afterwards present in the enterprize of storming Fort Clinton.—He was known, during the life of his father, by the title of Lord Rawdon: And this name became famous, in the dispatches which were received from America, in the course of the war.

Merit, so eminent, at so early an age, was sufficient to justify any rapidity of military promotion, which the wealth and influence of his family could command for him. In the year 1778, before he had completed the full age of four-and-twenty, he rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army; and was appointed adjutant-general to the

* General Burgoyne's words, in his official dispatch, were, *Lord Rawdon has this day stamped his fame for life.*"

British forces under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. In the hazardous retreat of the British army from Philadelphia, through the Jerseys, to New York, he signalized his valour, activity, and judgment, in this new command, by services of great importance to the safety of the troops. He acquired new honour, by his conduct in the action at Monmouth. His behaviour, during the siege of Charlestown, displayed so many eminent proofs, as well of military prudence and sagacity, as of activity and courage; that, notwithstanding his youth, and the shortness of the time for which he had been in actual service; he was now judged worthy of a separate command; and was sent, at the head of a body of troops, to act in the province of South Carolina. The American general, Gates, had invaded this province: and the part assigned to Lord Rawdon, was, to check the progress of the rebel army, until Lord Cornwallis should arrive, with a force sufficient to repulse them. With a discernment and skill, highly honourable to his military talents, Lord Rawdon posted himself, with his small force, in a situation from which he could, for eight-and-forty hours, securely defy the more powerful army of the Americans, to battle. Had Gates ventured to attack him in this encampment; there was little doubt, but the British troops would have proved decisively victorious. In their relative local circumstances, Lord Rawdon might even have assailed the Americans, with great probability of success. But with the coolness,

coolness, prudence, and self-denial, even rather of an old commander, than of a young officer impetuous in the pursuit of glory; he chose to await the arrival of Lord Cornwallis; instead of risking an action, which might, indeed, have been, in its event, eminently glorious to himself; but which, it was also possible, might have proved unfortunate, and would, in this case, have disconcerted all the plans of Lord Cornwallis.

Gates, retiring, endeavoured, by a circuitous march, to deprive Lord Rawdon of those local advantages, which he had so skilfully seized. In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis came up; and the new movements of the Americans, were perceived to have thrown them into a condition, in which it was likely, that they might be defeated. The action at Camden, was consequently fought. Lord Rawdon, now under Lord Cornwallis, led on one of those divisions which were the first engaged; and, by his intrepidity, and promptitude of resolution, here merited new laurels. The Americans were entirely routed: and the British forces gained one of the most decisive victories, which it was their fortune to obtain, in the whole course of the war. Lord Cornwallis, afterwards marching into North Carolina, left Lord Rawdon, with but a handful of troops, to maintain the southern province. The American generals, Sumpter and Marion; at the head, each, of a body of forces, more numerous than those which Lord Rawdon had to oppose to them; broke into South Carolina,

in the month of February, 1781; invoked its inhabitants to rise in arms, for the rebellion; greatly harassed this small British army; threatened to cut them off, to make them prisoners of war, or at least to drive them from the territory. Lord Rawdon's military talents were never more splendidly exercised, than upon this occasion. By a series of rapid marches, and daring exertions, he disappointed all the efforts of the rebels; worsted them, in several severe contests; and, within the space of less than ten days, expelled them out of the district which they had invaded.

In the month of April following, another American army advanced under the command of General Greene, against the British troops, which, under Lord Rawdon, still held possession of South Carolina. While Greene kept his army encamped on Hobkirk-hill; his lordship, anticipating the coming up of the American artillery, and the arrival of reinforcements which Greene expected to join him; resolved to attack the rebels in their camp, though with a very inferior force. The choice of a circuitous line of march, concealed his approach from the enemy. He reached the most accessible side of the hill on which they lay, before they were at all aware, that he was about to assault them. Greene, however, with great alertness, drew out his forces to encounter the assailants; And when he perceived, with what a narrowness of front, the British advanced to the attack; he confidently expected a decisive victory. Discerning, at once,
the

the plans of the American commander; Lord Rawdon, with great promptitude of thought and resolution, opposed to these, such a new arrangement, and such movements, of the British troops, as were fitted, effectually to defeat them.—Perhaps, after all, the attempt of the British, was one which nothing but the very difficult and critical situation of their affairs in the province, could fully justify.—The Americans descended down the hill, under the protection of a very heavy fire of grape-shot, from their artillery. An extension, however, of the British front-line, utterly disconcerted the American plan of attack. The British impetuously drove them back, pursued them to the summit of the hill, silenced their cannon, and, soon totally routed the whole American army. The victory was obstinately disputed: it was, dearly earned: less than Lord Rawdon's intrepid courage, and fertile invention in military resources, would have been unequal to the difficulties of the occasion*.

Yet, Lord Cornwallis found it, soon after, necessary, to evacuate the province of South Carolina: And in consequence of the indisposition of his lordship's health, at that time, the conduct of the retreat devolved upon Lord Rawdon. It was attended with the severest hardships; the want of the necessaries for subsistence, a fatigue which the weakness of hunger was but ill-fitted to undergo, disease incessantly thinning their numbers, an enemy active to

* See "Stedman's History of the American War," vol. II. p. 356-8.

harass or surround them, local difficulties of which the clear and open state of almost all European countries can convey no just idea. The circumspection, foresight, and unsparing personal exertion, with which this gallant leader watched over the safety of the British troops, during this retreat, and finally accomplished its object; as they were among the most eminent proofs which have ever been exhibited of military genius and skill; so are they greatly above our praise. It became, afterwards, necessary for him, to evacuate Camden. For some time subsequent, he continued, with great vigilance and activity, to pursue and harass the movements of General Greene. When it appeared, that the farther prosecution of this plan of operations, would be fruitless; his lordship then returned to Charlestown.

In the district of Charlestown, he, for a while, held a command. During this period, an unpleasing act of public justice was executed, under the authority of Lieutenant-colonel * Balfour, as commander within the town; on account of which, some unmerited blame was, afterwards, thrown out against Lord Rawdon. Isaac Haynes, an American, had been made prisoner, when Charlestown, was taken by the British forces. He voluntarily took the oath of allegiance to the British Government,—and was set at liberty. In violation of his oaths, he soon after, began to in-

* Now lieutenant-general,

trigue for the service of the rebellion. Obtaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the American militia; he seduced a whole battalion of loyalists to desert with him, to the rebels. His treachery was detected, when he was in the act of carrying it finally into execution, at the critical moment of the near approach of the enemy to assault the town. Thus flagrantly guilty, Haynes was brought to trial, before a Court of Enquiry; was convicted; and condemned to death. Lord Rawdon, with generous humanity, endeavoured, privately, to procure an application from the loyalists, in favour of the unhappy criminal, which might obtain his pardon from Lieutenant-colonel Balfour. But, Sir Egerton Leigh, Attorney-general for the province, entirely defeated this benignant expedient, for the reconciliation of mercy with public justice, by declaring, that—"he would sooner cut off his right hand, than sign a petition so injurious to his Majesty's interests." When particularly asked, indeed, by Lieutenant-colonel Balfour, in private, Lord Rawdon could not help giving his reluctant opinion, merely as a British officer, in favour of that which the interests of military discipline, seemed in this instance, imperiously to demand. Haynes was executed. How unjustly, this execution has been branded with the charge of cruelty; and with what falsity, Lord Rawdon has been accused, as its author; cannot but sufficiently appear to the reader, from what the
most

most unquestionable authority has enabled us here to state *.

The excessive heats of the climate, for some time after, compelled the British troops to remain in a state of inaction. Lord Rawdon's health had been greatly impaired; and he fell into a dangerous indisposition. One destined march was, on account of his illness, countermanded. His zeal for the service, made him renew the directions for that march, immediately after his recovery out of a fainting fit; though

* It was known by every body in Charlestown, that Lord Rawdon secretly encouraged Mr. Alexander Wright, and Mr. Powel, two eminent loyalists, to procure a petition from their body, in favour of Colonel Haynes.—We shall also add Lord Moira's own recent account of this transaction, as an additional proof of his delicate notions of responsibility.

“The learned lord (1) has brought the case of Colonel Haynes to justify the system which has been carried on in Ireland. Let me state to your lordships what the case was: Isaac Haynes had been taken at the capture of Charlestown. He was suffered to go on parole to his own house. He was not contented with remaining a prisoner on parole; he voluntarily came forward, and took the oath of allegiance. He soon began to intrigue; and obtained the command of colonel of militia, in the enemy's army. He corrupted a battalion of our militia, which had been enrolled and attested. He was detected carrying them off, at the very moment when the enemy were coming down upon us. He was tried by a Court of Enquiry, and executed. But it is necessary to inform your lordship's, that this Court of Enquiry was the only criminal court known in the country. It was adopted from the example of the enemy; and was so far superior to a Court-martial, that the officer who presided in it was responsible for every efficient act.”—See *Earl Moira's speech in the Irish House of Lords.*

(1) Lord Clare.

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he was still too weak to proceed, otherwise than in the conveyance of a cart, out of which he issued his orders. But his ill health became, amidst these exertions, continually worse; and he was compelled to seek the only probable remedy, by returning to the climate of England. Embarking for Europe, in a packet-vessel; he was captured, on his passage, by the *Glorieux*, a French man-of-war, belonging to the fleet of *De Grasse*; and was sent, on board a frigate, to Brest. At length, he arrived safe in Britain; where his great services were acknowledged, and his heroism universally admired. He was created a Peer of Great Britain; and was nominated *Aide-de-camp* to the King.

From that time, till the æra of the commencement of the present war, Lord Rawdon's life was passed in a manner sufficiently honourable to his rank, and to the high military character which, at so early an age, he had dearly earned. In consequence of the death of his uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon; he succeeded to the estates of this ancient and noble family. On the occasion of this succession, he was permitted by his sovereign, to assume the arms and name of the Hastings's, Earls of Huntingdon. The most eminent persons in these kingdoms, have cultivated his friendship. An intimacy highly honourable to both parties, has long subsisted between the Prince of Wales and his lordship. The Duke of York chose Lord Rawdon, without the recommendation of a previous intimacy, and solely on account of his high character

character for delicate and unblemished honour, to be second to his royal highness, in his well-known affair with Colonel Lenox. On the death of his father, he succeeded to the title and estates of the earldom of Moira in Ireland.

He had risen, before the commencement of the present war, to the military rank of Major-general. It was, therefore, naturally expected, that he would not fail to be among those general officers, who should, in the course of it, be called out into actual service, and intrusted with high command. He was not, however, selected to act with the Duke of York, upon the continent. But, about the end of the year 1793, he was nominated to the command of a separate body of troops; which were encamped in the vicinity of Southampton, and were destined, in conjunction with the embodied emigrants, to certain offensive operations against France. The misfortunes of the allied arms, on the continent, occasioned the British ministry to relinquish the original design with which these troops had been assembled, for the sake of sending them to reinforce the army under the command of the Duke of York. In obedience to orders which were officially communicated to him, the Earl of Moira sailed, with this force, for Ostend. He conducted their debarkation, and pursued his march up the country, with a generalship so skilful, that the enemy, supposing his army to be, at least four times as numerous, as it really was; suspended, on this account, the execution of a plan of attack, which they had premeditated,

meditated, against the British line of posts, in West Flanders. Without artillery, with very little baggage, through a country which was not open to his movements, in the presence of a terrible foe, hanging upon his flanks, and constantly menacing interruption, Earl Moira advanced, with astonishing rapidity, and not without the most prudent vigilance, till he effected a very seasonable junction of his own small force with the army of the Duke of York. Had it not been for the error in which the enemy, a while, remained, in respect to the strength and number of his troops; and for the celerity and dexterous address with which every motion of the march was managed; it was impossible but Earl Moira must have been, in the execution of this service, beset and overpowered by the French. His Quarter-master-general, the late General Doyle, seconding him with the greatest activity, happily seized the town of Bruges, at a time, when, but for this achievement, the enemy might have easily hindered him from proceeding farther. In the vicinity of Ghent, this small band was, again, in danger of being cut off. But, from the town of Alost, they gallantly repulsed the French, who had already entered it. For three days subsequent, Earl Moira remained master of this place: nor did the French dare to make any vigorous efforts to dislodge him. The whole series of these movements, so checked the enemy, as effectually to cover the retreat of the main British army. Earl Moira, then, joined the Duke of York, at Malines near Antwerp; and

and was there received by his royal highness, with every mark of cordiality and friendship.

He returned, soon after, to England; and was, again, consigned to inactivity. A nominal command at Southampton, with little effective authority, was all that the ministry thought proper to leave to him, till the summer of the year 1795. The temporary charge of a body of British troops, encamped on the road to Rumsey, was, then, committed to him. Several battalions of French emigrants, were, at the same time, distributed in the neighbourhood of Southampton. A descent upon the coast of Brittany, was projected. The emigrants, under the command of the *Comte de Puissaye*; a British detachment under Major-general Graham; were embarked for this expedition. The unhappy emigrants landed at Quiberon, to meet destruction! The British troops, having been driven by storms, to the westward, escaped the fate of the emigrants, and did not land. In the errors and disasters of this ill-planned and unfortunate expedition, the Earl of Moira had no part.

During his command at Southampton, his expenditure out of his private fortune, exceeded the sum of thirty thousand pounds! Yet, with singular delicacy, he shunned the acceptance of pay, patronage, or any other emolument, for all that period of his command, during which the troops in his camp, were kept in a state of indecision that did not promise real service. If the expences of his
staff.

staff-establishment, were, as has been alledged, burthensome and extravagant beyond example; the source of this, is probably, to be found, not in any thing dependent upon his lordship's will, but in the unsuitable arrangements made by those, to whose controul he was himself necessarily subject*. However ambitious of military glory, Earl Moira has ever been so far from discovering any avarice of military emolument; that, when a regiment was offered to him, during the short administration of the Marquis of Buckingham, he refused to accept this promotion, solely on the ground, that there were older and more deserving officers, on whom it might be, more properly, conferred. He has never since obtained a regiment. Even his enemies will not affect to deny, that he has amply earned one.

It is not only, as a military man, equally brave to act and skilful to command, that the Earl of Moira has been eminently distinguished. As a member of the Upper House of the Legislature, both in Britain and in Ireland, he has often taken an upright and ably discriminating part, in the highest legislative and judicial deliberations. Not content to give an unexplained and unsupported vote; he has chosen, on all important occasions, to

* Lord Moira has always spoken very handsomely of the conduct of administration towards him, during his command at Southampton, excepting in the one instance of the expedition to Quiberon. The mystery observed on this occasion hurt him much.

unfold the nature and the grounds of his principles of decision, in manly, graceful, and dignified eloquence; to which it has been impossible even for his enemies to listen, otherwise than with the most profound and respectful attention.—Compassionating the severe distresses of persons imprisoned, at the pleasure of their creditors, for small debts; he has had the noble humanity to introduce into parliament, a bill for their relief; which its reason, its benignity, and the interesting eloquence with which he recommended it, have procured to be enacted into a law; and which, while it shall continue to adorn our parliamentary records, will be a noble monument of his philanthropy and wisdom.

The connections of private and of political friendship; dislike to a policy, which threatens to establish a permanent distinction of interests between the higher and lower ranks of society; perhaps a generous resentment of the conduct of ministers who could be, by any motives, determined to deny to him, in a season of war, those opportunities of earning new laurels in the military service of his country, for which his soul passionately burned, and of which he had proved himself to be sufficiently worthy; concern for those political dissensions, by which the Irish nation was convulsed, and which threatened, even to rend the British empire in pieces; that very magnanimity of his nature, which would not allow him to believe all the poor to be incorrigibly wicked;—Such reasons, probably, as these, have

have engaged him in an opposition, both in Britain and Ireland, to the measures and views of the present ministry. Yet, his has not been that selfish opposition, which would rather, that ministers should pursue bad measures to their own ruin, than that they should be the authors of good ones, fitted to accomplish the salvation of their country. Expecting, that those plans of concession and conciliation, of which Earl Fitzwilliam was believed to have gone to Ireland, as the minister, might remove every grievance, compose every difference, and indulge, in particular, the Catholics, with all those immunities which were not incompatible with the security of the rights of their fellow-subjects; he was willing to lend to that nobleman's administration, his most zealous support. But, when, by the sudden recal of Earl Fitzwilliam, those sanguine hopes were disappointed, which the Irish had been encouraged to conceive; Lord Moira seems to have very anxiously anticipated, with the eye of political and patriotic sagacity, all the mischiefs, which were, unavoidably, to result from a ministerial conduct, so tantalizing and capricious. Too soon, were the worst auguries more than fulfilled, which the fears of patriotism had taken up, concerning the progress of Irish affairs. The seditious and unprincipled beheld, with joy; while the storm of dissatisfaction and discontent gathered, still more and more powerful, among the Irish; till it was big with all the energies of a mighty electrical shock, about to burst forth from the bosom of the earth. They seized the fatal moment, to

insinuate their projects of conspiracy, of rebellion, of the ties of connection between Britain and Ireland, to be cut asunder by the arms of France. A people, whose political hopes, the British ministry had, so cruelly, first, excited, and then frustrated; could not resist the delusive seductions with which they were thus assailed. Division from Britain; amity with France; a Republican form of Government; became, very extensively, the favourite objects of the political wishes of the Irish. With a celerity, which deceived the vigilance, even of those who watched over the welfare of their country, with the most patriotic anxiety; the principles of conspiracy and rebellion, quickly pervaded all Ireland; took possession of the shop of the tradesman, the cottage of the peasant, the pulpit of the dissenting minister, the confessional of the catholic priest; and with wonderful boldness, ferocity, and unanimity of concert, advanced towards the entire completion of their hopes. For a while, however, their progress was not such, but that a beneficent change of measures, on the part of the British ministry, might have, easily, arrested, and reverted it. During this critical season, Earl Moira stood strenuously forth, both in Ireland and in Britain, in order, if possible, to persuade ministers, ere it were yet too late, to adopt, in combination with energy and vigilance, that lenient and benignant spirit of government, which might, alone, without the bloodshed of civil war, dispel the lowering storm. He knew, that ministers, even while they vehemently contended against the propositions of their opponents,

nents, had, not seldom, deigned to steal instruction from them, and to act upon their views. And he might therefore indulge hopes, that, upon an occasion so critical and important, as that which now called forth his exertions,—as much might, perhaps, be done. He was disappointed. Ministers were resolute, both in Britain and in Ireland, to persevere in those violent and coercive measures, to which the miscarriage of their former plans had already forced them to have recourse. The evil was found to have already taken deeper root, and spread itself wider, than Earl Moira had supposed. With that exalted magnanimity of honour and virtue, which refuses even to imagine the existence of the lowest turpitude of human nature; with that *charity which thinketh no evil*; he had believed the Irish peasantry to be less universally the sworn accomplices of rebellious conspiracy, than they were soon found to be. For even while he was hastening to seek the redress of their wrongs, the mischief which he desired by this redress to crush, had diffused itself with the activity of a pestilence: Even on his own Irish estates, those peasants towards whom he had endeavoured to act the part, as it were, of a beneficent mediator, had devoted themselves to all the atrocities of massacre and insurrection. Because he was thus benignantly mistaken, a base occasion has been taken to inveigh against the honesty and the wisdom of his counsels. Persons who had observed, that wisdom, wit, truth, and eloquence, when delivered to the world, through the press, in fa-

vour of an adm istration, might usefully aid its cause ; fancied, that *their* ribaldry, falsehood, and composition disgraced by every deformity that can make letters disgusting or ridiculous, might serve our present ministers as well ; and like a herd of obscene Yahoos, attacking one of their reasoning superiors, have dared to sputter out their nonsense and malignity against Earl Moira. But attacks so mean and feeble, can scarce have power to provoke even his contempt. Nothing, it is to be devoutly hoped, will ever make him shrink from those active duties of a patriotic senator, which he is so eminently qualified to discharge. That those crimes and miseries of the Irish, which he strove in vain to prevent ; that the dangers of the crisis, into which the affairs of both Britain and Ireland have been, unhappily brought ; that the misfortunes of a war, which seems big with ruin to all Europe ; must deeply affect Earl Moira's soul, beyond all the concerns of his private interest, or even reputation ;—it is utterly impossible to doubt !

Earl Moira is amiable in private, no less than great in public life. His manners are marked by that lofty, yet gracious and winning politeness, which is adapted to bespeak to any person, even at first sight, the true nobleman. Delicacy of sentiment, gallant intrepidity, high honour, and melting generosity, have seldom been more conspicuous in any other character, than in that of Lord Moira. His liberality, in some signal instances, was, not long since, upon the occasion of a suit

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at law—in which, however, his lordship had no concern—declared by a judge from the bench,—no doubt, upon good information,—*absolutely to exceed all bounds.* His courage and fortitude are not barely the armour of the mind, to be put on, only for the perils of warfare, and the darings of battle. They, easily, and without affectation, accompany him, in all the incidents of ordinary life. One of his friends, witnessing the firmness and indifference with which he endured a singularly painful operation upon one of his eyes, could not help expressing his belief; that—“if Lord Moira were condemned to be beheaded,—he would, certainly, beg it, as a matter of favour, to be, first, exposed to the torture of the rack!”* The tenor of his lordship’s familiar life, has, in it, much of simple unaffected dignity. He is an early riser; and his mornings, before the hour for breakfast, are allotted to the dispatch of business, to the care of answering letters—as he receives them, and to the benign task of paying the most gracious attention to those numberless appli-

* Perhaps there cannot be cited a more striking instance of that lofty and fearless gallantry of honour, which is the most eminent quality in the character of Earl Moira, than that which was displayed by him, when he had the honour to attend the Duke of York, as his second, in the affair with Colonel Lenox. Colonel Lenox, and his second, the Earl of Winchelsea, in going to the field, had a post-chaise disposed in readiness for escape, in case of any fatal event. Earl Moira, then Lord Rawdon, seems to have thought it unworthy of his honour, to use such a precaution; but went out to the field, with a resolution to abide the consequences, however unfortunate they might prove.

cations for patronage or relief, which the reputation of his benevolence, naturally invites. His forenoons are, in the country, chiefly dedicated to the amusements of agriculture ; into all the detail of which he enters, with great eagerness and intelligence. Formerly, when he was wont to take, more frequently, the diversion of hunting, he was distinguished as a singularly fearless rider, and used to outstrip all the country-gentlemen, in the chace. He keeps house, with the liberal hospitality becoming an English nobleman. His table is splendidly and sumptuously served : but, he himself partakes of its pleasures, with extraordinary temperance. His company usually withdraw from the dining-room, to the library : and the evening is then given, either to conversation, such as unites the feast of reason and the flow of soul, or, perhaps, by every different person, to private study. Lord Moira himself has, by reading, by converse, by an extensive observation of nature and society, acquired a store of knowledge so various, so just, and so profound, as to have been very rarely equalled among men of his rank and habits of life. He is remarkable as a *voracious reader*. A new book falling into his hands, seldom fails to engross and absorb his attention, till he has thoroughly mastered its contents, and, as it were, has *torn the heart out of it*. In conversation, he displays a mingled pride and modesty ; willing to express his sentiments, but scorning to obtrude, and rarely deigning to defend, them ; never dictatorial nor pertinaciously disputative ;

tive ; but shunning with a dignity, which sometimes borders on haughtiness, to descend to the level of common conversational discussions. Into the details of business of all sorts, he is capable of entering with uncommon patience, discernment, and perseverance. If interrupted, however often, by the calls of friendship or of other business ; he is ever ready to leave his unfinished task ; to enter, with the most obliging and entire attention, into the new avocation, while it presents itself ; and, then, when this interruption has ceased, to return to that from which he had been called, with a mind as completely in possession of its former part, as if nothing had interposed to divert him from it. Even his enemies have never been able to withhold their reluctant homage from his talents and public virtues. It is generally understood, that he might have held high official employments, even in the present Administration, if he had not been unwilling to espouse the principles, and to associate himself in the responsibility, of its leaders.

Nothing, as it is said, ever more acutely wounded Earl Moira's feelings, than that breach of the confidence of private friendship, by which his lordship's letter to Colonel M'Mahon, was laid before the Public. It had been submitted to the perusal of certain political friends, under the strictest injunctions against farther communication, which could be imposed on the honour of a gentleman. Happily, its publication has, with men of candid discernment, only served to do new honour to his lordship's character.—He is, also, known to the world, as an eminent member of the fraternity of Free Masons.

The benevolence of their institution, is, probably, that which chiefly attaches him to it. Were there even no other testimony in favour of Free Masonry; the Public would not be easily persuaded to look upon *that* to be big with secret mischief, *which* is openly espoused by Earl Moira. The book against it, which was produced by a certain Scotch Professor, himself an Apostate Free Mason, must, to all persons of cool sagacity, have carried its refutation in its own bosom. In the address to his Majesty from the Grand Lodge, there was made, in the name of all the Masons in England, a decisive and unequivocal declaration of those principles of loyalty and friendliness to social order, which, as it should seem, enter deeply into the spirit of Free Masonry; but which, the abhorrence of the Fraternity, from all pragmatistical intermeddling in politics, must hinder them from officially proclaiming, unless upon an occasion that is singularly extraordinary.

On the whole, we cannot but think, that it will be eminently advantageous for our country, if the great qualities of Earl Moira shall be, at any future time, called out into leading employment, in either its civil or its military service. The late Earl of Huntingdon used to say, that Lord Moira was calculated by nature rather to deserve than to attain high and responsible situations: And we contemplate, with peculiar pleasure, a character which bears, so remarkably, the impression of genuine indefeasible nobility, at a time when the duties required of our nobles are so arduous.

MR. ROSCOE.

THE history of the author of the *Life of Lorenzo de Medicis*, evinces the wonderful effects which result from assiduous industry, superadded to the rapidity of genius. Favoured by no advantages of education, fostered by no patronage, raised by the native energies of his mind alone, Mr. Roscoe has reached a pitch of literary eminence, which is rarely attained even by those who have made the best use of the privileges of academic instruction.

His parents moved in the humbler sphere of life; they were, of course, precluded by their circumstances from giving their son a very extensive education; and, with a strange perverseness of temper, he himself obstinately refused to attend at the day-school where his father wished him to be taught writing and arithmetic. In consequence of this untoward event, he did not enjoy even the common opportunities of acquiring knowledge, usually possessed by those of the same station in life as himself. He was thus fated to be the architect of his own fame.

But though he threw off the trammels of the school, he was not idle:—he read much, and thought more.

At an early age he was articled as clerk in the office of Mr. Eyes, an attorney, in Liverpool. Soon after this period he was stimulated to undertake the study of the Latin language, by one of his

his companions boasting that he had read Cicero *de Amicitia*, and speaking in high terms of the elegance of the style and sentiments of that celebrated composition. Mr. R. immediately procured the treatise in question; and smoothing his difficulties by perpetual reference to his grammar, as well as to his dictionary, he drudged through the task which emulation had incited him to undertake. The success experienced in his first effort prompted him to proceed; and he did not stop in his career till he had read the most distinguished of the Roman classics. In this pursuit he was encouraged by the friendly intercourse of Mr. Francis Holden, an eccentric but excellent scholar.

Having made considerable progress in the Latin language, Mr. R. still without the assistance of a master, proceeded to the study of French and Italian. The best authors in each of these tongues soon became familiar to him; and it is supposed, that few natives of the country possess so general and recondite a knowledge of Italian literature, as the subject of the present memoir.

During the whole of this period, Mr. R. regularly attended at the office: his seasons of study were the intervals of business.

His attachment to the muse was of a very early date. While yet a boy he read with avidity the works of the best English poets. Of their beauties he had an exquisite sense; and it may easily be imagined that the first of his compositions were of the poetical class. "Mount Pleasant," a descriptive

scriptive poem, which he wrote in his sixteenth year, is a record not only of the fertility of his genius, but of the correctness of his taste.

Soon after the expiration of his clerkship, Mr. R. was taken into partnership by Mr. Aspinwall, a very respectable attorney of the town of Liverpool; and the entire management of an office, extensive in practice, and high in reputation, devolved upon him alone. In this situation he conducted himself in such a manner as to gain universal respect: for, notwithstanding his various pursuits, he had paid strict attention to his profession, and acquired a liberal and minute knowledge of law. In short, in clearness of comprehension, and rapidity of dispatch, he had few equals.

About this time he commenced an acquaintance with the late Dr. Enfield*, and the present Dr. Aikin, both of whom were then residents at Warrington, the former being tutor in the *belles lettres* in the academy there, and the latter established as a surgeon in that town. These gentlemen were early sensible of his surprising talents, and they contracted with him a friendship which was sure to be lasting, as it was built on the solid basis of mutual esteem.

Mr. R. seems to have been early gifted with a correct taste in the arts of painting and statuary. On the 17th of December, 1773, he recited before

* When Dr. E. published the second volume of the *Speaker*, Mr. R. furnished him with an *Elegy to Pity*, and an *Ode to Education*.

the society formed in Liverpool, for the encouragement of designing, drawing, painting, &c. an ode, which was afterwards published, together with his poem entitled Mount Pleasant. Of this society he was a very active member, and occasionally gave public lectures on subjects appropriate to the object of the institution.

When the voice of humanity was raised against the slave-trade, Mr. R. fearless of the inconvenience to which the circumstances of his local situation might expose him, stood forth a zealous and enlightened advocate for the abolition of that inhuman traffic. In his boyish days, indeed, he had expressed his feelings on this subject, in the following charming lines, which are extracted from the poem already alluded to, page 40 :

— There Afric's swarthy sons their toils repeat,
 Beneath the fervors of the noon-tide heat;
 Torn from each joy that crown'd their native soil,
 No sweet reflections mitigate their toil;
 From morn to eve, by rigorous hands oppress'd,
 Dull fly their hours, of every hope unblest:
 Till broke with labour, helpless and forlorn,
 From their weak grasp the ling'ring morsel torn;
 The reed-built hovel's friendly shade deny'd;
 The jest of folly, and the scorn of pride;
 Drooping beneath meridian suns they lie,
 Lift the faint head, and bend th' imploring eye;
 Till death, in kindness, from the tortured breast
 Calls the free spirit to the realms of rest.

Shame to mankind! but shame to Britons most,
 Who all the sweets of liberty can boast,

Yet,

Yet, deaf to every human claim, deny
That bliss to others which themselves enjoy :
Life's bitter draught with harsher bitter fill,
Blast every joy, and add to every ill ;
The trembling limbs with galling iron bind,
Nor loose the heavier bondage of the mind.

Thus by his own reflections, Mr. R. was prepared to enter with ardor into the views of the friends of suffering humanity. He had frequent conversations with Mr. Clarkson, who first drew the attention of the kingdom at large to this national disgrace. A specious pamphlet was published in defence of the trade, entitled, "*Scriptural Researches into the Licitness of the Slave-trade,*" and written by a Spanish Jesuit of the name of Harris. Mr. R. answered it with great spirit and acuteness, in a counter-pamphlet, called "*A Scriptural Refutation of a Pamphlet lately published by the Rev. Raymund Harris.*"

But this copious and interesting subject awakened all his sympathies, and the public were gratified by a most affecting poem, entitled, "*The Wrongs of Africa,*" which Mr. R. intended to complete in three parts. The two first appeared in 1787, and 1788, but the lovers of genuine poetry have to lament that he has not yet fulfilled his promise of favouring them with the third.

A mind so active and generous as Mr. R.'s could not remain uninterested in that stupendous event, the French revolution. He of course caught the enthusiastic glow that warmed the breasts of the friends

friends of freedom, while they beheld a mighty nation throwing off the fetters of despotism; and fondly hoped that the consequences of their exertions would be lasting peace, good order, and equal laws. He even tuned the lyre on this bewitching theme, and proclaimed the praises of Freedom in a translation of one of Petrarch's odes, which found its way into the *Mercurio Italico*; a song intitled, "*Millions be Free*;" and the famous poem, "*The Vine-covered Hills*," which may be classed among the most finished compositions in the English language.

During the season of tumult and discord, which succeeded the attempt of the combined powers to reinstate, in the plenitude of its authority, the despotism of France (an attempt, in which this country, fatally to itself, perhaps too cordially united), Mr. R. was busily employed in writing the History of Lorenzo de' Medicis. This work was begun about the year 1790, and it may be presumed that it has now passed through the ordeal of criticism, as more than two years have elapsed since its publication. The literary world have had time to recover from the dazzle of surprise; and the buz of ignorant applause, raised by the leaders of literary fashion, is now still. The sentence of sober judgment confirms the verdict which was pronounced according to the dictates of first impressions. The liberal acumen of Parr has assayed the Life of Lorenzo, and has found it sterling gold. Its dignity and grace have shielded its author

thor from the merciless tomahawk of the writer * of the *Pursuits of Literature*; and we may fairly presume that its rank is fixed among the most splendid ornaments of English composition.

The admiration with which the public have been affected by the perusal of this work will, no doubt, be increased by a knowledge of the circumstances in which it was composed. At the time when it was projected, Mr. R. lived at the distance of two miles from Liverpool, whither he was obliged daily to repair to attend to the business of his office. The dry and tedious details of law occupied his attention during the whole of the morning and afternoon; his evenings alone, he was able to dedicate to study: and it will be easily conceived, that a gentleman, surrounded by a numerous family, and whose company was courted by his friends, must have experienced, even at these hours, a variety of interruptions. No public library provided him with materials. The rare books which he had occasion to consult, he was obliged to procure in London at a considerable expence. But in the midst of all these difficulties the work grew under his hands, and in order that it might be printed under his own immediate inspection, he established an excellent press in the town of Liverpool, and submitted to the disgusting toil of correcting the proofs. The *History of Lorenzo de Medicis* was, at length, published early in the year 1796.

* Mr. Mathias.

Soon after the appearance of his history, Mr. R. relinquished the profession of an attorney, and entered himself at Gray's Inn, with a view of becoming and acting as a barrister.

He took advantage of the leisure which the relinquishment of business afforded him, to enter upon the study of the Greek language ; in which, according to the report of his intimate friends, he has made considerable progress.

The public, with concordant voice, have called upon Mr. R. for the life of Leo X. and the Lords Holland and Bristol have, with great liberality, offered their assistance in procuring from Italy, and other parts of the continent, whatever documents he might think it necessary to consult in the execution of so grand a design. The lovers of polite literature will be glad to hear that Mr. R. has actually begun this work ; but such is the troubled state of Europe, that he is debarred, at present, from the use of materials which might otherwise be collected abroad.

Throughout the whole course of his life, Mr. R. has uniformly maintained a character of simplicity, sincerity, and benevolence. He acts uprightly without effort. Ill-fated genius cannot plead his history as a precedent for irregularity of life ; nor will his example sanction the herd of men of abilities, who deem their talents a licence to live in idleness, and prey upon the public. His resources are in his own exertions. He is, in every

every sense of the word, an independent man. Long may he enjoy the blessings which are the meed of virtue!

M. N.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART. L.L.D.

THE Sinclairs of Ulbster in Caithness, are descended from the ancient earls of the same name, who derive their title from the appellation of the county. The late Mr. Sinclair enjoyed an extensive estate in that remote part of the island. His rental is said to have amounted to nearly fifteen hundred pounds a-year. And when we consider, that some of the lands are not, at this day, worth three halfpence an acre; and that in a very favourable year only, will the walnut, there, kernel, or the apricot reach maturity; it may be easily supposed, that it could not be a small tract of territory which produced this income.

John, born in 1754, is the son of the *Laird of Ulbster*, by Lady Jane Sutherland. Being an only son, he received the first rudiments of his education from a private preceptor, in his father's house. While yet a boy, he began to acquire habits of literary industry, and to exhibit that taste for books, and that turn for research, which have eminently marked the character of his life.

Domestic tuition had acquainted him with the first elements of letters. He was sent to acquire the
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languages of Rome and Greece, at the *High* or *Free* school of Edinburgh. In the celebrated University of the same place, he was, next, taught to exalt his studies, from grammars and vocabularies, to the beauties of composition, the principles of taste, the elements of *scientific* truth, the rules of reasoning, and the grand deductions of moral wisdom. At the age of fifteen, he wrote several letters on the importance of the cultivation of estates in the highlands of Scotland, which were printed in the *Caledonian Mercury* of that time, and are distinguished by an energy of sentiment, and an elegance of style, which he has, since, ceased to study with equal solicitude, and, perhaps, could not now display.

In Scotland, as in England, it has long been usual for every young man of fortune, either to study the municipal law of the country, or to serve for some time in the army, for the purpose of finishing his education. Mr. Sinclair chose to study law. With this view, he went to hear the lectures of Millar, the celebrated professor of Jurisprudence, in the University of Glasgow. From Glasgow, the ingenuous curiosity of a liberal mind, enamoured of literature and science, carried him to visit the English seminary of Oxford; where he had opportunity to acquire the rudiments of that acquaintance with English literature and manners, which was to prepare him for acting his part, on a future day, as a member of the British House of Commons. From Oxford, he returned to complete

plete his juridical studies at Edinburgh, by the particular study of the municipal law of Scotland, and by courting admission into the Scottish Faculty of Advocates. At this time, he distinguished himself, as a speaker, in the *Speculative Society*, in which many of the most eminent men who have studied at Edinburgh, are well known to have made their first essays in argumentation and elocution. The political and juridical antiquities of his country, likewise, engaged his attention, in a very particular manner, during the same period. And he examined, with great ardour and diligence, a number of the *chartularies*, and other written documents of the ancient history of Scotland, which are repositied in the valuable library of the Faculty of which he now became a member.

His soul was ardently alive to political ambition. His fortune was ample, unincumbered, and increasing. His family-interest was powerful in the county, in which his estates were situate. He was generally looked upon, as a very promising young man. At the first general election, therefore, which followed after he had completed his studies, he was chosen to represent the county of Caithness in the British parliament. Scarcely had he taken his seat in the senate, when he evinced an honourable resolution to distinguish himself by patriotic integrity, by indefatigable application to business, and by taking a part in the contention of parliamentary debate, whenever he

had reason to think himself capable of throwing new light upon the subjects under discussion.

His attempts, as a speaker in the British parliament, quickly convinced him, that no native of Scotland, could successfully aspire to the praise of English eloquence, without having first discarded from his speech, the peculiarities of the Scottish dialect. He, therefore, applied himself to discriminate all those impure idioms which the natives of Scotland are apt to introduce, in their use of the English language. He noted down, from time to time, those phrases, which he thus learned to distinguish and avoid, as *Scoticisms*. Mr. Hume had, before, annexed a list of *Scoticisms* to an edition of a volume of his essays. But Mr. Sinclair's list was soon far more numerous than that of Hume. Some papers of the late Sir John Henderson, on the same subject, were put into his hands. Adding what was most valuable, out of these, to his own observations; he, at last, resolved to publish the whole, for the use of his fellow-countrymen, in general; though he had, at first, had nothing farther in view, than his own private improvement in speech and in writing. The book was not unfavourably received by the world. Men of letters were not ill-pleased to see a young man of fortune associate himself in their pursuits. The honourable pride of the English, was agreeably flattered, by the concession which the publication of such a work, seemed to imply, in favour both of the excellence of their native language,

language, and of the superior skill and purity with which it was written by themselves alone. The Scots, ambitious to clear their speech from all distinguishing peculiarities of dialect, were glad to accept from one of their fellow-countrymen, that aid which they wanted, to enable them to accomplish this object. The well-known title of this book, is, *Observations on the Scottish Dialect*, by JOHN SINCLAIR, Esq.

This publication was the result of his endeavours to qualify himself for the respectable discharge of his duties, as a senator. The same principle directed him in an incessant application to other useful enquiries. A very valuable pamphlet on the *Progressive Strength of the British Navy* in the course of the present century, was one of the next fruits of his studies, which he presented to the world. It is replete with useful information. And, it has been very properly republished by him, with some corrections and additions, since the commencement of the present war.

But, the *Levy and Expenditure of the NATIONAL REVENUE*, compose together, one of the most important objects, on which a British senator can have occasion to fix his attention, in the course of his parliamentary duty. Always eminently interesting to the statesman, the subjects of public œconomy had lately begun to be esteemed not unworthy of the illustration of the philosopher. Dr, Davenant, in his various works, had been among the first to introduce into this study, a portion

of scientific principles. *Sir James Stewart-Denham*, during a long residence in France, had applied himself to financial researches, with extraordinary assiduity and success: And, in his **POLITICAL ŒCONOMY**, he gave to the British public, a cabinet rich in all the treasures of this science; but one, in which the specimens were thrown together in awkward disorder, and were exhibited with the disadvantage of ores still encrusted with the impurities of the gangue in which they were imbedded in their native mine. *Hume* had, in the elegant and unassuming form of *Essays*, happily unfolded a few of the most essential principles of financial science, with a beauty and clearness of explication, which could not but strike the understanding of every reader. *Quesnai*, *Mirabeau*, and the other French *œconomistes*, had explored the mysteries of *finance*, with all the rigour, and not without much of the pedantry, of austere science; and had framed a system of its principles, which, nothing, but partialities and errors naturally occasioned by that plan of taxation which they witnessed in France, seems to have hindered from being faultlessly perfect.—*Adam Smith*, the friend, at once, and the generous and respectful rival of *Hume*, the pupil of the *œconomistes*, instructed by long and inquisitive converse with some very intelligent merchants of the city of Glasgow, had exhibited in his book on the **WEALTH OF NATIONS**, a work in which all the branches of *Public Œconomy* were explained in the order,

order, and with the combination, of philosophical system; which united the theory of France, with the practical maxims of the English; which undeniably advanced financial knowledge to a new height of perfection; yet, which is not free from fundamental errors, and has many observations scattered through it, which must appear to have been dictated, rather by the inclination to find fault, than by the power to suggest practical amendments. *Turgot* had, with a benignant and sublime spirit of reform, endeavoured to apply the principles of the *économistes* to actual practice, in the administration of the *finances* of France: *Calonne*, in the same administration, had artfully attempted to borrow the aid of modern improvements, for the support of ancient abuses: And *Necker*, with the feeblér hand of a *Patroclus*, had essayed to wield the *Achilleán* arms of *Turgot*: While the contention between *Calonne* and *Necker*, the anxious appeals of them both to the tribunal of the European public, and, in particular, the great work of the latter, upon the administration of the French finances, laid before the world, an invaluable collection of materials, from which might be deduced many new general facts, for the advancement of sound economical science. *Mr. Pitt*, in fine, had begun to apply some part of the principles of *Hume* and *Smith*, to the management of the business of the British treasury; but with a caution, which wisely scrupled to derange the movements of the practical machine, by too hasty and

rash an application of the projects of untried theory, to improve them.

Attracted by such views of the importance and the progressive improvement of this great branch of political knowledge; Sir John Sinclair next conceived the plan of a *History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire*. The execution of such a task, could not but be exceedingly arduous. His indefatigable diligence was, however, equal to any undertaking, that diligence could atchieve. Of this work, he published, in the year 1789, a *first* and a *second* part: The *third* part was given to the world, in the following year, 1790. In this publication, which is no longer to be easily found in the shops of the booksellers, he deduces the history of the British revenue, from the age of William of Normandy, nearly to the present time. He has collected, in it, into one focus, much financial information, that was, before, scattered in books, which were commonly in the hands of the public: He has brought into light, many facts, which were formerly concealed from the public eye, in the secret recesses of antiquarian obscurity, or in the mysteries of office: He has provided, for the use of the philosophical speculator on the subject of public œconomy, a body of important information, from which new general truths may, perhaps, be happily deduced. His researches have, indeed, been sometimes misled: he does not, always, weigh the merits of his evidence, with sufficient rigour: his arrangement is not without confusion: in the formation

mation of his style and manner, he seems to have refused to sacrifice to the Graces: his mind seems to want the expansion and energy which are necessary to grasp, in its whole extent, the science which he has laboured to illustrate: he has, perhaps, in no one instance, penetrated to the knowledge of those grand and simple elements, which, when once discovered, are able, with all the magic power of the talisman of an Arabian tale, to flash a blazing light over the region of murky darkness, and with instant efficacy, to communicate the sublime beauty of order, to that which lay, but the moment before, in chaotic confusion. But, a noble spirit of probity and rectitude, breathes throughout his whole work. Its very design has the merit of considerable originality: For, what prior work can be named, in which the idea of improving the management of an administration, by the historical display of the financial experience of past times, has been, in any country, so fully and distinctly carried into execution? His projects for the improvement of the British revenue; though, in some instances, indigested, like those of other projectors; are, in some, of such merit as to have been already adopted into financial practice; and, in others, certainly well deserve that preference which they have not yet obtained. However imperfect this work may appear, when viewed in comparison with that ideal excellence which the fancy of a critic, may, without great difficulty, conceive; yet, when it is regarded as the

the fruit of those studies, by which a young senator laboured to qualify himself for the useful discharge of his parliamentary duties; and when we reflect, that he sent it to the press, solely with the sincere and ingenuous desire of making these studies more extensively useful to his country; it will be impossible for us to withhold from the undertaking, even our highest praise. He complains of the minister, as having denied him access to some important information, which it would have been useful to make public, but which it was vain to conceal. We believe, that he has, in his subsequent researches, not seldom met with similar difficulties.

To Sir John Sinclair, may be applied, with singular truth, the praise of

Nil actum reputans, dum quid superesset agendum.

Soon after the publication of the third part of his History of the British Revenue, he was impelled by the same spirit of patriotism and ardent enquiry which had guided him in his former researches, to engage in an undertaking still more extensive and laborious, for the purpose of illustrating the present state of population, industry, knowledge, customs, arts, manners, and opulence, in North Britain. A task somewhat similar to this, had been first attempted by Sir Robert Sibbald, the physician, who, in the end of the last century, held the offices of royal historiographer and geographer for Scotland. His books, though severely attacked by the malicious criticism of his
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younger rival, the famous *Pitcairne*, have been, ever since, regarded, as invaluable treasuries of useful information concerning the Natural History and the Antiquities of his country. About the middle of the present century, a considerably accurate statement of the population of Scotland, was obtained from the parochial clergy, for the use of Government, through the hands of the late Rev. Dr. *Webster*. *Henry Home*, Lord *Kaimes*, a man whose genius, industry, and public spirit, can never be sufficiently praised, had procured a general survey of the agriculture of Scotland, to be executed by Mr. Wight of Ormiston, a very intelligent farmer, at the expence of the Scottish Board of Trustees for Improvements, &c. The late learned Dr. *John Campbell* had included, in his Political Survey of the British Empire, a good account of the ancient and modern state of Scotland, collected partly from books, and in part from an extensive and very laborious correspondence with well-informed Scotsmen. The members of the Scottish Antiquarian Society, had begun to communicate, at its meetings, sketches of parochial histories. The taste of the age, in general, was turned, every day, more and more, to the investigation of those facts, from which alone, the philosophical principles of Political Œconomy, are to be surely deduced. It was in emulation of such examples, and under the encouragement which this taste of his contemporaries, appeared to present, that Sir John Sinclair undertook to compile that work to which he has
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given the name of a *Statistical Account of Scotland*.

His original design, in entering upon this undertaking, was, to collect from the communication of the clergy, landholders, and merchants of Scotland, materials for a great and elaborate work which he himself purposed to compose. After making this use of such materials as he should obtain, it was his intention to deposite these in some public library, in which they might be faithfully preserved for the inspection of posterity. Communicating the plan of this undertaking, soon after he had formed it, to Sir *Joseph Banks* and others of his most eminent literary friends in London; he had the satisfaction to find, that they eagerly honoured it with their warmest approbation and encouragement. The late excellent Dr. *William Robertson*, and Dr. *Hugh Blair*, both equally the pride of the church of Scotland, warmly recommended Sir John's enquiries to the attention of their clerical brethren. Assisted by an useful work, the production of the German Count *Bertchold*; and by some papers of enquiries, which had been, before, circulated by Dr. *James Anderson*; he soon prepared, printed, and transmitted to all the clergymen, as well as to numbers of the landholders, merchants, and farmers, in Scotland; a series of *queries*, to which he respectfully solicited their answers, and in which he comprehended every topic of enquiry, the resolution of which could serve to illustrate any particular in his de-

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stined plan. He intended to sit down to the composition of his work, as soon as he should have received answers to these *queries*, for every parish in Scotland. But, the Scottish clergy, though neither an unenlightened nor an inactive race, were far from answering the *queries* of Sir John Sinclair, with that ready alacrity which he had expected from them. Some parishes were vacant: in some, the incumbents were sick, or pressed down by the infirmities of extreme old age: indolence, frivolity, careless convivial habits, a deep immersion in family cares or in the business of rural life, a pious abstraction of soul from all the concerns of the world, operated, as so many reasons, to prevent not a few clergymen from paying any immediate attention to his request. Some of the landholders, meanly unwilling, that the circumstances of their tenantry and estates should be publicly disclosed to the world, interposed to thwart and discountenance his undertaking. Under these disadvantages, he soon found; that, if he should delay to begin his intended work, till all the parochial answers to his *queries* were obtained; this work might, perhaps, never have a commencement. Besides, among those papers which had been already transmitted to him, there were several so excellent, that he could not think, that he might, in justice, withhold them from publication. He, therefore, postponed, for a time, the intention of composing his general work; and resolved, first to print and publish the different parochial

rochial reports which should be put into his hands, as nearly as possible, in the very form in which they were received. A first volume was, with this view, soon published: And its appearance acted as a stimulus, to excite others of the clergy to favour him with their communications. He renewed his solicitations with unconquerable perseverance: All his respectable friends seconded his efforts. New progress was made in the accomplishment of his plan. Several subsequent volumes were added to the first. In the space of less than ten years, after writing to each individual of the greater number of nearly nine hundred clergymen, *more than thirty different letters of solicitation*; after making, with various success, an infinite number of applications to persons of all ranks; after performing, in particular, a multiplicity of small favours to the clergy of the Scottish church; after enduring much from the selfish prejudices and author-pride of those whose papers he received and published: Sir John Sinclair has, at last, finally accomplished, at an expence of several thousand pounds, which the sales have not yet refunded, the compilation and publication of a complete Statistical Account of all the parishes in Scotland, comprehended in twenty volumes octavo, and containing, for almost every different one of about nine hundred parishes, a different article by a different author. Among the complaints with which these clergymen teized him, in the progress of this work, it was one of the most troublesome, that he mutilated and altered

tered their pieces, before printing them, and in so altering, spoiled them. But, in truth, many of the communications were made, not in a continuous composition, but in the form of answers to the queries,—a form in which it was impossible that he should have thought of publishing them. Sir John Sinclair's primary object, was, to obtain an account of the present state of each parish; without overlooking its antiquities; yet, without dwelling upon these in any very ample detail: while, on the contrary, many of the clergy had great difficulty in conceiving, that the common and familiar things which were constantly passing before them, could possess aught worthy of being solemnly recorded in print; and were, therefore, rather inclined to fill their papers with details of antiquities, as forming the principal part of that which they had to communicate. Besides, there were, even among that respectable body of men, the clergy of the church of Scotland, some, who knew not to write accounts of their parishes with that correctness of composition, which was requisite to fit them for the public eye. These circumstances naturally occasioned to Sir John Sinclair, little less trouble in preparing the papers of the clergy for the press, than if he had actually composed an entirely new work of his own: while, at the same time, the alterations which he was obliged to make, afforded to every particular clergyman whose account of his parish, was disapproved by the public, a pretence for affirming, that the account was
originally

originally good, but had been spoiled by Sir John Sinclair. The whole work is, now, before the public: and to the judgment of the public we shall leave it. We earnestly wish; that he may not rest satisfied with having formed this compilation; but may now find leisure for the composition of that more general and original work, which it was his first intention to produce out of these materials. The manuscripts of the present compilation, have, as we are informed, been carefully deposited by him, in the library of the Faculty of Advocates, at Edinburgh.

His parliamentary exertions were not, in any degree, relaxed, during this progress of his studies. He was diligent in his attendance on the meetings of the senate. He studied, with great assiduity, the forms of its business, the great precedents recorded in its journals, and all those principles of legislation, which were received, as its ordinary maxims of procedure. The partiality, perhaps, of a young member of parliament for a young minister; or, it may be, a persuasion, that nothing would ever be able to make Mr. Pitt swerve from the Whiggism of his early life; induced Sir John Sinclair, in the commencement of his parliamentary career, to range himself, for a time, among the partizans of this minister. Government, like any private man, must, naturally bestow its graces, rather on its friends, than on its opponents: And, during this part of Sir John Sinclair's life, he failed not to experience some share in the favours of the administration

ministration with which he acted. His family had pretensions to the honours of a baronetage: and, these honours were readily conferred upon him. He enjoyed, for a time, I think, an inferior seat at one of the ministerial boards.—But, perhaps, his ambition was not sufficiently gratified by what the minister was willing to bestow: perhaps, he was offended by Mr. Pitt's gradual dereliction of those genuine Whig principles, of which the profession had carried him into office. It may be, that, as the minister's character and talents were of a different cast from those of Sir John Sinclair; he treated those things, upon which Sir John valued himself, with a contempt which is the most cruelly provoking to that personal vanity, from which, even virtue and good sense, are not always exempted. By such means, Sir John Sinclair was induced, first, to venture the occasional protest of patriotism against the measures of Mr. Pitt; and, afterwards, in the course of that discussion which, on a celebrated occasion, arose concerning the right to the regency of these kingdoms; openly to join the ranks, and adopt the hopes, of the Opposition. His votes, his speeches were, during the parliamentary contest of that time, zealously friendly to the pretensions of the Prince of Wales. Hostility to Mr. Pitt, and the hopes of advancement under a new administration, might, perhaps, combine with sincere political opinion, in directing him in this plan of conduct.—When the question concerning the slave-trade, was agitated, in the

year 1792, Sir John Sinclair avoided taking any decisive part in the discussion. He, perhaps believed that trade to be criminal, and worthy of severe reprobation; but dreaded, lest any *great* and *sudden* alteration in a matter, in which there was such a complication of interests concerned; might be attended with evils, much more than adequate to counterbalance whatever good could be confidently expected to result from it.—Perhaps a dread of democratic anarchy, perhaps some different motives, induced Sir John to come to a compromise with the minister, about the æra of the commencement of the present war. For a while, he supported the ministerial measures,—generally with a silent vote. But, finding that Mr. Pitt valued his simple assent more than his advice; alarmed by the embarrassments into which the nation was plunged by the war; and possibly thwarted in some of his pretensions; he, within no long time, relapsed into occasional opposition. His opposition was treated by the minister with the haughtiest contempt; And a hostility that may remain irreconcilable, has been, since, generated between them. Upon every important occasion, Sir John Sinclair seems still to consider himself, as bound in duty, not to be wanting, as a member of the legislature, to the interests of his country. He has shewn an anxiety for the termination of the present war, in an honourable peace. He strenuously resisted the measure of the redemption of the land-tax, as one which, by opening a way for the
imposition

imposition of new burthens, would promote the continuance of the war, for which such burthens are to afford the requisite supplies. He has vigorously opposed the recent tax upon income, as one to the exaction of which, any measure of œconomy would assuredly be preferable. It is impossible, fairly to review the whole tenor of his conduct, as a member of the British parliament, without feeling one's self compelled to acknowledge; that there appears in it, as ample an infusion of enlarged intelligence and patriotic rectitude, alloyed with as small a portion of folly, caprice, and selfishness, as is to be discovered in the conduct of almost any other eminent political character of the present age.

From his early youth, his attention had been, in a particular manner, devoted to the improvement of the rural œconomy of his country. A diversity of circumstances concurred to give him this turn of mind. The patriotism and genius of the late Lord Kaimes, made such pursuits, for a time, fashionable among young men of fortune in Scotland. The emigration of the Scottish peasantry, in great numbers, to America, awakened the landholders to an extraordinary anxiety concerning the fittest means to maintain the value of their estates. The ingenious, indefatigable, and ill-requited Dr. James Anderson had, by many valuable experiments and publications, laboured to excite, among his fellow-countrymen, a passion for agricultural improvements. Science and literature had

begun to make, throughout Britain, a variety of efforts to reduce this one province more, within the bourne of their empire. All the experience of Sir John Sinclair's public life, contributed to enhance his first ideas of the importance of public, and especially of rural, œconomy. In the progress of his Statistical Enquiries, he gained new knowledge, which essentially contributed to strengthen the previous bias of his mind. The examples of a Board of Trade, and of a Scottish Board for Improvements, Manufactures, and Fisheries, suggested the idea of the institution of a Board of Agriculture. All the fondest wishes of Sir John Sinclair, for some time, earnestly pointed to the accomplishment of this grand object. It is understood, that the institution of a Board of Agriculture, of which Sir John Sinclair should be president, was made a primary condition in that compromise with the minister, by which Sir John is supposed to have agreed to give his parliamentary support to the first measures of the present war. Upon its institution, Sir John Sinclair was chosen to be its president: Mr. Arthur Young was nominated to the office of its secretary. The president had resolved, that this board should not be subject to that ridicule of inactivity, which the late Mr. Burke threw out, upon a celebrated occasion, against the Board of Trade. He instantly produced plans, which merited the approbation of the members of the Board, for engaging it in the most vigorous exertions to improve the agricultural state of the

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British empire. It was upon his suggestion, that the board opened its office, in order to communicate every information which farmers should solicit, by correspondence, to enlighten their practical operations; and, on the other hand, to receive from practical farmers, for the improvement of agricultural science, every communication of new and peculiar facts or principles, which any one might suppose to be of importance, and to have fallen, perhaps exclusively, under his own knowledge. He was the author of the design of procuring agricultural surveys of all the different counties in Britain. From these surveys, when they should have been all completed, it was his intention to procure the formation of one grand and general survey of the agriculture and rural œconomy of the British empire. Out of this, again, he hoped to be able to form a short, but elaborate abstract, which should serve as a manual of agricultural art and science, to be valued by every British farmer, almost as his almanac and his bible. The improvement and useful diversification of our principal tame animals; the introduction of new vegetables, and the perfection of the feeds and culture of such as Britain before possessed; the abbreviation and amelioration of all the modes of rural labour; the reduction of all waste lands under tillage, and the making of every field susceptible of perpetual fertility and cultivation; the instructing of the farmers of one district, by exposing to their knowledge the enlightened example of those of another; the improve-

ment of the utensils, the domestic accommodation, the morals, the intelligence of the people by whom the labours of husbandry are to be carried on:— All these entered, as so many objects, into the views of the President, for the prosecution of the Board of Agriculture. As he was the author of its plans of exertion; so the chief burthen of its business fell upon him alone. He supported and prosecuted it, with great ardour and perseverance. A bill for facilitating the legal subdivision and inclosure of common fields, was one of the fruits of his application; which, though unsuccessful, and though, perhaps not, in all its parts, completely worthy of success; served powerfully to evince the activity of his patriotism, and the enlargement of his agricultural intelligence. Calculations made by him, of which the results might well seem to careless observation, incredibly magnificent; have demonstrated, how immensely the national wealth of Great Britain is susceptible of being augmented by agricultural improvements alone! In the execution of all his plans, he had soon made very great progress. A number of communications upon various agricultural subjects; a first edition of Reports of the State of Husbandry, in all, or almost all the counties of Great Britain; a second and enlarged edition of not a few of these Reports; had been communicated by him, to the world, through the press. An annual grant of a few thousand pounds from parliament; a subscription by the members of the board; and what copy-money

money was to be obtained by the sale of the books; have been the resources for the supply of the necessary expenditure of the Board of Agriculture. Notwithstanding the difficulties and disappointments which naturally arose in the midst of this, as of all other great and complex undertakings; it could no longer appear doubtful to persons of enlarged and sagacious intelligence, but all those great objects might be finally accomplished by this board, which its President had held out to view, when he proposed its institution. But, perhaps, the minister did not approve of so much activity in a president of the Board of Agriculture. In that disagreement, in regard, possibly, to both public principles and private interests, which has again taken place between Sir John Sinclair and the members of the Administration; the founder of the Board of Agriculture; he who was almost its sole steadily efficient member; a man who had paid greater attention to rural œconomy than any other eminent individual in Europe; one who had dedicated his time, his fortune, his influence, his talents to this class of pursuits, with unexampled disinterestedness, perseverance, and success; has been removed from that presidency in which it was his delight to serve, in order to make room—for whom?—for Lord Somerville!

About the æra of the commencement of the war, Sir John Sinclair, though not, by education, a military man, was employed, on account of his influence in the North, to levy a fencible regiment.

Under commissions to command as Colonel, the dates of which are of March 7th, and December 19th, 1794; he raised the two battalions of the Rothsay and Caithness Fencibles. With an erring notion of the true old Highland garb, but certainly with a very elegant alteration of its *coutume*, he adopted the *trews* instead of the *kill* or *philibeg*, in fixing the particular dress of his battalions. Turning, now, his attention to military affairs, with the same ardour with which he had applied it to the subjects of agriculture and public œconomy; he collected much valuable information, concerning the best situations for encampments, destined to the protection of the country, equally against anarchy and invasion; concerning the best means for preserving the health of the soldiery, thus encamped; and in regard to other matters of high military importance. His civil engagements, have, indeed, hindered him from remaining in constant service, at the head of his battalions. But, this praise, at least, cannot be denied him; that, among all those gentlemen, who, without previous military experience, have been, within these few years, invited to give their assistance in the levying of soldiers; no one has formed a finer body of troops, nor has been more vigilantly or successfully attentive to the equipment, health, and discipline of his men. His connexions with the farmers and the clergy of Scotland, proved eminently useful to him, while he was mustering his soldiers. The farmers of East Lothian, offered a bounty to recruits enlisting in
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the regiment commanded by Sir John Sinclair. The clergy did him many little services, by which his success in recruiting, was not a little promoted. A promise of providing employment for his soldiers, when they should be, at the end of the war, disbanded,—in manufactures, which it was his intention to establish at his burgh of Thurso—presented, at the same time, an interesting invitation to those young men, who were compelled to enter into the army, because they were discharged from the service of manufactures, in which they had been engaged before the war.

Beside all this, Sir John Sinclair has vigilantly seized many other occasions of promoting the interests of his country, of science, and of literature.—When a number of the most eminent persons in this country, associated themselves for the purpose of advancing, by their personal exertions, and by pecuniary contributions, the geographical investigation of the unknown regions of the African continent; Sir John Sinclair was naturally invited into the Association; and was among the foremost, to enter eagerly into its views.—He was the founder of a Society for the improvement of British wool; whose endeavours, directed chiefly by his cares and sagacity, have already been eminently beneficial to the shepherd-husbandry, and to the woollen manufactures of Great Britain.—A very great number of the noblemen and gentlemen of the northern counties of Scotland, have united in what is called “the Highland Society,” for the
purpose

purpose of promoting the general improvement of the Scottish Highlands. Of this society, also, Sir John Sinclair has long been a member: he has had, occasionally, the honour of presiding in its meetings: than he, there has been no one more assiduous to promote the ends of its institution. Amidst the diversity of his other pursuits, he has even found time to take an active part in enquiries, in which it has been lately engaged, for the purpose of ascertaining the authenticity of the poems ascribed to Ossian the son of Fingal.—Every man of letters, and every plausible literary undertaking, has found, in Sir John Sinclair, a zealous friend. While Dr. James Anderson was engaged at Edinburgh, in the periodical publication of that excellent Miscellany which he named the BEE; Sir John ardently promoted its success, by many a little office of friendship.—It is well known, what an honourable and munificent reward he obtained from the legislature of the country, to Mr. Elkington; what a jealousy was excited by it; and how completely Sir John has been vindicated, in the estimation of all good men, from the charge of ungenerous or partial conduct, in that very delicate affair.—A very ingenious peasant of the name of Bonnar, having made many extraordinary improvements in the art of managing bees, was encouraged, chiefly by Sir John Sinclair's patronage, to communicate his discoveries in an entertaining volume, to the world.—A Mr. Johnstone, a very able and intelligent young man, was, under the direction of the same patron,

sent

sent at the expence of the Highland Society, to learn the practice of Elkington's mode of draining, under its inventor ; and was, then, enabled, still by Sir John Sinclair's care, to explain the whole process, in a book which has been since published by subscription.—So remarkably has Sir John Sinclair distinguished himself, especially in Scotland, as the patron of every useful undertaking ; that scarcely any thing of this nature, whether important or minute, whether in literature, in the sciences, or in the arts, is there attempted, without being first submitted to his consideration, and, in some sort, cast upon his patronage.

In his private character and personal manners, Sir John Sinclair is more than irreproachable, he is eminently virtuous and amiable. He is an attentive and affectionate husband and father ; a gentle and benevolent master to his servants ; punctual in his dealings with tradesmen ; anxious to perform the duties of a father, and, as it were, an informing angel, to his tenants ; easily accessible to all ; winning in his address and manners, without any use of that smooth-tongued flattery which insinuates what it does not mean, and selfishly amuses, only to deceive. His form is tall and elegantly proportioned ; his countenance, interesting and expressive ; his carriage, graceful, yet, perhaps, not without some degree of stiffness ; his conversation rather pregnant with useful truth, than arrayed in the fascinations of sprightliness, wit, and fancy. He has been twice married, to two of the most beautiful

ful women in the island. His first lady, a Miss Maitland, prematurely died in the bloom of youth; his children by her, were two daughters. His present lady, is the daughter of the late Lord Macdonald; and by her, he has a son, George, and other children. Not a great many years since, he made a rapid tour through the northern kingdoms of the European continent; which, when the shortness of the time in which it had been performed, came to be known in Britain, failed not to be talked of with some share of ridicule.

After all this, it may, perhaps, be asked—Is Sir John Sinclair, a man of genius?—Is he, indeed, qualified to act a great part on the theatre of public affairs? We shall, perhaps, do well to concede, that he wants that seraph-fire of soul, that expansive comprehension and that elastic energy of intellect, that eagle-eyed intuition illuminating with a glance the deepest obscurities of nature or of human things, those trembling sensibilities of sympathy and of passion, those unconfined creative powers of fancy, which have been granted to but very few among all the millions of mankind. He seems to have descended, to dwell in the regions of minute detail; without having, first, duly cultivated his powers of abstraction and generalization; without having stored his mind with a sufficient abundance of original and general principles. In the progress of his studies and political labours, he appears to have, with an error of judgment which is to be greatly lamented, chosen,

still

still more and more, to slight the splendid for the sake of the useful, and to refuse those sacrifices to the Graces, the withholding of which is often, but too dearly punished ; a choice which has, of necessity, deprived him of the masterly use of engines which he might otherwise have employed, the most successfully, in accomplishing the noblest purposes of his soul. He has not cultivated parliamentary eloquence, with the happiest care ; but seems to have, from the first, supposed elocution, manner, the flowers of fancy, the ardour of sentiment, the energies and the graces of language, to be, in comparison with sound information and honest patriotic meaning, of an importance greatly inferior to that which they, in truth, possess. It may be, that he has, at times, suffered the petty vanities of the author to shed an air of ridicule over his studies, and to impede the prosecution of his grander views. Amidst the complexity and operoseness of the means, he has, at times, perhaps, lost sight of the end. He has, sometimes, as it should seem, neglected to grasp the essence of influence and of power, while he was more solicitous concerning what men might think of his conduct and personal importance, than concerning the actual effects which these were to produce in the affairs upon which they were exercised. His are not the powers, which delight to ride in the whirlwind, and to controul the storm ; which, though they may languish on inferior occasions, never fail to erect themselves to those which are arduous

arduous and great ; which find their proper region of activity, in the keenest and most doubtful contest of impassioned debate,—in those crises of national danger, when kings and nobles are confounded for lack of counsel,—amidst those alarms, before which common souls fall prostrate, and shrink into themselves.

But of genius, the very first in the second class, he has exhibited many indubitable proofs. To conceive a plausible project, is, indeed, no very decisive evidence of high talents. But, to conceive a magnificent project ; and then, in spite of every obstacle, to carry this project fairly and effectually into execution ;—these combined acts are, above almost all others, the most unequivocal testimonies of great abilities, in the person who is capable of them. Such testimonies of his abilities, has Sir John Sinclair presented, in the compilation of the Statistical Account of Scotland, in the establishment of the British wool-society, in procuring the institution of a national board of Agriculture, in almost creating a science of agriculture, which, before his time, had scarcely an existence. If, in various matters of inferior consequence ; as for instance, in those expedients which he publicly proposed, for the support of the credit of the Bank of England ; he have written crudely, and without a due knowledge of his subject : let it be remem-

* Let us not, however, be inferred, as denying to Mr. Arthur Young, and particularly to Mr. Marshall, our best agricultural classic, that high praise which their writings deserve.

bered

bered, that candour demands of us, to judge of the strength of any man's abilities, not by the worst, but by the best, of his performances; and that even genius can distinguish itself, only there, where it has employed the requisite toils of research and composition. Compare Sir John Sinclair with the mob of men of rank and fortune, throughout the island; how does he shine—

Ut luna inter minores ignes!

Compare only his conduct, as President of the Board of Agriculture, with that plan of conduct, which is boastfully said to have been adopted by his very respectable successor in the same office! Sir John Sinclair, with Bacon, with Newton, with almost all great men of profound science, or of eminent experience in the arts of life, was of opinion; that the arts of dyeing, for instance, of metallurgy, of navigation, of gardening, of the useful management of all the mechanical powers, had been improved into scientific excellence, and had been taught with facility and success, only since science and literature were carefully applied, for their perfection and illustration. He looked around him; and saw new palaces of science, continually rising, by the efforts of philosophy and literature, on scenes where stood, before, the miserable hovels of lubbard labour, untutored toil, and unskilful art. He saw, that, by the change, the hundred arms of labour, had been endowed with all the energies of ten thousand. He was impatient to do for his favourite agriculture, that which had been already done
for

for other arts,—to elevate it into a science, and to make its true principles universally known. He knew, by the example of the Board of Trade; that, unless for the purpose of fulfilling, in one portion, the views of the illustrious Bacon, of creating a science, and disseminating information; the institution of a Board of Agriculture, were vain. In the administration of the business of that Board, of which he was the founder; he directed all his plans to this great end. So far as time could permit, he was triumphing over every difficulty, in the accomplishment of of it.—He is removed from the situation to which he did honour: and his successor prepares to adopt, for the conduct of the exertions of the Board, a plan almost directly opposite to that which Sir John Sinclair pursued. We are told, that, agriculture is not susceptible of being reduced to science; that farmers are incapable of learning any part of their business from books; that, it is not in the way of collecting and disseminating agricultural knowledge, through the channel of the Press, that this Board is, henceforth, to make itself principally useful!—Pray, gentle reader, which of these two plans for the conduct of the Board of Agriculture, is that of a man of genius and enlargement of mind? Which, pray, is the plan even of a man of common sense?—Persons turning their attention upon the plans of Sir John Sinclair, in their unfinished state, have presumed to condemn them as masses of confusion and stupidity. But, it is thus, that folly ever derides the magnificent works of genius and wisdom

wisdom, while it beholds them, as yet, only in their progress towards final accomplishment. Hearing the sarcasms of such persons, we never fail to recollect the beautiful apologue of Dr. Percival, in which he introduces a boy, beholding Sir Isaac Newton busied in his experiments upon colours and the laws of vision;—and contemptuously laughing to see such a grave gentleman no better employed than in blowing bubbles of soap and water, and viewing their appearance under the rays of the sun.

We doubt not, but the labours of Sir John Sinclair, will be hereafter regarded, as forming a great æra in the progress of the science of Public Œconomy. We presume to express our earnest wishes and hopes, that no political flight from ministers, that no transient fickleness in the favour of the people, may discourage him from pursuing steadily that great career of public exertion in which he has hitherto persevered. We trust, that he will not fail to exemplify that truth which is so beautifully expressed by the Roman Poet.

Virtus, repulsæ nescia sordidæ,

Intaminatis fulget honoribus,

Nec sumit aut ponit secures,

Arbitreo popularis auræ !

HOR.

THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL.

THE rise of this nobleman must be allowed, even by his friends, to have been great; and if we are to believe his enemies, it is unexampled in our

annals, since the time of the Spenfers. This, however, is not strictly true, for it might be easy to point out many others who have been fully as fortunate in the course of the present reign, and attained equal honours with, perhaps, inferior pretensions.

On his being ennobled, it was observed, with more rancour than truth, that his family disgraced the peerage ; whereas the fact is, that on the score of birth his pretensions are superior to many of those with whom he associates, either in the senate, or at the council-board, being the next heir to a baronetage, which is now merged in a higher title. His ancestors have been settled more than a century at Walcot, near Charlbury, in Oxfordshire. His grandfather, Sir Robert Jenkinson, married a wealthy heiress at Bromley, in Kent ; and his father, who was a colonel in the army, resided at South Lawn Lodge, in Whichwood Forest.

Charles Jenkinson received the first rudiments of his education at the grammar-school of Burford, two miles distant from his father's house ; and many persons are still living, in that neighbourhood, who address him as their old school-fellow. He was afterwards placed on the foundation in the Charter-house, and seems to have been so well satisfied with the institution, that he educated his eldest son, the present Lord Hawkesbury, there. From that eminent seminary he was removed to Oxford, where he first imbibed, perhaps, his political sentiments, and was entered a member of University

sity college. There he took two degrees, that of B.A. and A.M. and seems to have made himself first known to the public by some verses on the much-lamented death of the Prince of Wales, father of his present Majesty.

In 1753, he removed from Oxford, without obtaining, and, perhaps, without soliciting, a fellowship. Soon after this he started in his literary career, and is said to have supplied materials for that useful publication, the Monthly Review: he next commenced political writer; and, in 1756, published A Dissertation on the Establishment of a national and constitutional Force in England, independent of a standing Army. This abounds with many manly and patriotic sentiments, and has been lately quoted against himself in the House of Peers: on that occasion his lordship did not deny that he was the author, but contented himself with apologising for his errors, on account of his extreme youth.

Soon after this he favoured the public with
“ A Discourse on the Conduct of the Government
“ of Great Britain, with respect to neutral Nations,
“ during the present War.”

To the last of these productions, his rise in life has been falsely attributed; it was indeed allowed by every one to be an able performance; but, like many others of the same kind, it might have lain in the warehouse of his bookseller, and he himself remained for ever in obscurity, had it not been for the intervention of a gentleman of the

same county, with whom he luckily became acquainted.

Sir Edward Turner of Ambroseden in Oxfordshire, being of an ancient family, and possessing a large fortune, was desirous to represent his native county in parliament. Having attained considerable influence by means of a large estate, and a hospitable and noble mansion, since pulled down by his successor, he accordingly stood candidate as knight of the shire. He was, however, strenuously but unsuccessfully opposed; for in addition to his own, he possessed the court interest. The struggle, notwithstanding this, was long and violent, and it still forms a memorable epoch in the history of contested elections; but for nothing is it more remarkable, than by being the fortunate occurrence in Mr. Jenkinson's life, which produced all his present greatness. The contending parties having, as usual, called in the aid of ballads, lampoons, verses, and satires, this gentleman distinguished himself by a song in favour of Sir Edward and his friends, which so captivated either the taste or the gratitude of the baronet, that he introduced him to the Earl of Bute, then flourishing in all the plenitude of power.

It is known but to few, perhaps, that his lordship, who placed Mr. J. at first in an inferior office, was not at all captivated with him; for it was entirely owing to the repeated solicitations of the member for Oxfordshire, that he extended his further protection. After a longer trial, he be-
came

came the Premier's private secretary, and in some respect a member of his family, participating in his friendship and favour, and living with him in an unrestrained and confidential intercourse.

Such a connexion as this could not fail to prove advantageous; and, accordingly, in March, 1761, we find him appointed one of the Under-secretaries of State, a station which presupposes an intimate acquaintance with the situation of foreign affairs, and a pretty accurate knowledge in respect to the *arcana imperii* in general.

He now became a declared adherent of what was then called "the Leicester-house party," by whose influence he was returned to parliament at the general election (in 1761) for the borough of Cockermouth, on the *recommendation* of Sir James Lowther, the present Earl of Lonsdale, his patron's son-in-law,

He, however, did not remain long in this station, for after the lapse of about fourteen months, he received the lucrative appointment of Treasurer of the Ordnance; this he relinquished in 1763, for the more confidential office of joint Secretary of the Treasury; a situation for which he was admirably qualified, by his knowledge of the state of parties, and the management of a House of Commons, of which he himself had been some time a member.

To the Rockingham administration, which succeeded in 1765, he was both personally and politically odious, and he accordingly lost all his ap-

pointments; but in the course of the same year, he had one conferred on him by the king's mother, the late Princess Dowager of Wales, which no minister could bereave him of; this was the auditorship of her Royal Highness's accounts.

That circumstance, added to his close intimacy with the discarded minister, awakened the jealousy of the patriots; and, if we are to credit their suspicions, he became, in the technical language of that day, the "go-between" to the favourite, the princess-mother, and the throne.

When Lord Bute retired into the country in disgust, promising to relinquish public affairs, a great personage is said to have construed this into an *abandonment*, and to have looked out for advice elsewhere; from that moment Mr. Jenkinson was ranked as one of the leaders of the party called "the king's friends," and his Majesty has ever since distinguished him by a marked partiality.

Honours and employments now fell thick upon him. In 1766, he was nominated a Lord of the Admiralty, and in 1767, a Lord of the Treasury, in which place, he continued during the Grenville and Grafton administrations. But under that of Lord North, we find him aspiring to some of the higher offices of government; for in 1772, he was appointed one of the Vice-treasurers of Ireland, on which occasion he was introduced into the privy-council.

In

In 1775, he purchased of Mr. Fox, the patent place of clerk of the Pells in Ireland, which had constituted part of that gentleman's patrimony, and next year was appointed master of the Mint in the Room of Lord Cadogan. In 1778, he was elevated to the more important post of Secretary at War, in which situation we find him in 1780, and 1781, defending the estimates of the army, in the House of Commons.

The contest between the friends of Mr. Jenkinson and opposition, now became critical; the majorities which had implicitly voted with the ministry, were reduced in every division, and at last abandoned a premier, who tottered on the Treasury Bench.

Mr. Jenkinson thought he had now ample leisure to compile his collection of Treaties, but he was soon by another change in politics, called back from his literary labours, into active life, and took a decided part in behalf of Mr. Pitt. In consequence of his exertions on this occasion, in 1786, he was nominated to the lucrative post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, created baron of Hawkbury, in the county of Gloucester, and appointed President of the Committee of Council for the affairs of Trade and Plantations. For the last situation, his lordship's regular and progressive rise, added to the various offices in which he had acted, admirably qualified him.

Further emoluments were, however, reserved for him, for on the decease of his relation, the late

Sir Banks Jenkinson *, who held the lucrative patent place of collector of the customs *Inwards*, he procured the grant. Nothing can more clearly demonstrate his great influence than that occurrence; for this was one of the sinecures which the premier had all along declared his intention to abolish.

To these favours, in 1796, was added that of Earl of Liverpool, on which creation he was authorized by his Majesty to quarter the arms of that commercial city with those of his own family. These are great honours, but the motto which he has adopted for his escutcheon, proves that he considers himself as not undeserving of them †.

While in the House of Commons, Mr. Jenkinson spoke frequently, but since his recent elevation, he rises but seldom ‡; whatever he says, however, is listened to with the utmost attention, and the throbbings of expectation are never more feelingly experienced by the servants of the crown, than when he hints his wishes either at the council-board, or in parliament.

His lordship formerly experienced much odium, which, indeed, is always attached to the charge

* Sir B. J. died in 1780.

† PALMA NON SINE PULVERE.

‡ In one instance, when the writer of this note happened to be in the House of Peers, and at a period when his lordship did not possess any ostensible post, in speaking of the present ministry he made use of the word *we*, which gave the Earl of Carlisle (then in opposition) an opportunity to infer that Lord Hawkesbury had, at length, owned his connexion and influence with the minister.

of favouritism: for when the Earl of Bute made his *apothefis*, his political mantle was supposed to drop on the shoulders of Mr. Jenkinson. He is now, however, a peer and a privy counsellor, and in one of these situations has become the temporary, and, in the other, the constitutional adviser of the crown: he is, therefore, empowered both by office and by law to deliver his opinion to his sovereign.

It would be unjust to omit that the Earl of Liverpool has always paid great attention to the trade of this country. It was he who drew up the treaty of commercial intercourse with America; and he is also said to have not only pointed out, but to have *created* the whale fishery in the South Seas:

Respecting the part he took during the American war, the public voice has long since decided; no one ever spoke more decisively, or, perhaps, more intemperately on that subject than his present associate the Chancellor of the Exchequer: and of the share they both have in the management of this country, the government of Ireland, and the present contest with France, posterity will be able to judge more coolly, and more fairly, than their own contemporaries.

MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND.

THE name and signature of this gentleman are both pretty familiar throughout every part of Great Britain; indeed the latter seems to give the same currency to a *bank-note* that the celebrated and notorious John Doe and Richard Roe, confer on a *capias*. Honest Abraham has, however, this in his favour, that he is no fictitious person, made up of shreds of parchment, but a man—a real living man, constituted of flesh, blood, bones, sinews, marrow, and muscles; and while the place of abode of the former *gentlemen* is so little known, even in Chancery-lane, Lincoln's-inn, Gray's-inn, Serjeant's-inn, or the Temple, that the Sheriffs of Middlesex, if ordered to take one of the rogues into custody, must be under the necessity of returning *non est inventus* on the back of the writ,—there is not a boy about the Royal Exchange who cannot point out the *great house*, where the worthy Abraham is to be seen strutting about, with a pen behind his ear, and a muster-roll of bank notes in his hand, for several hours every day!

The trade of Europe, during the middle ages, was confined almost exclusively to the provinces that skirt the Mediterranean and the Baltic. The oppressions every where experienced by the Jews from the *brotherly affection* of the Christians, taught them, from cruel necessity, the art of transferring their riches from one nation to another; and the
 mysteries

mysteries of banking, and bills of exchange, are supposed to have originated in Italy.

A colony of Lombards, by means of the arms of their duchy *, and the name of their country, have given sign posts to our pawnbrokers, and an appellation to the residence of our principal bankers †.

It was not, however, until nearly two centuries after this epoch, notwithstanding the growing increase of our commerce, that a national bank was established ; and notwithstanding David Hume, towards the latter period of his life, affected to consider public credit as a *hardier plant* than he had at first imagined, yet it is a long time before mankind becomes so metaphysical as to suppose that a horse, a ship, an estate, or even a province, may be represented by a square slip of flimsy paper.

Indeed, this mode of reasoning is supported by facts, for it was found impossible to create a great national bank, either under the houses of Tudor or Stuart. Such a tyranny as that exercised by Henry VIII. would have driven the proprietors into beggary in the course of a fortnight. Charles II. who cheated the *goldsmiths*, or bankers of his day, by plundering the exchequer of the money lodged there, and whom the *Gothamites* of later times have placed in the centre of the exchange, dressed in a Roman habit, as if he had been the protector of trade ! might have proved nearly as fatal to a banking company, by his own distresses, joined to the per-

* The three balls of Lombardy.

† Lombard-street.

petual cravings of his courtiers and mistresses, as the indiscriminate ferocity of Henry. Nel Gwyn alone, would have put a *German subsidy* in requisition!

In fine, we all know, that an establishment of this kind failed in monarchical France, and that it has been several times ineffectually attempted under the republic. It was not until five years subsequent to our own revolution, that the bank of England was established (in 1693), under the auspices of a prince emphatically termed "the DELIVERER;" thus proving, to demonstration, that liberty and public credit are inseparable from each other. At Berlin, Vienna, and Madrid, we hear of *court bankers*, but a national bank is still unknown.

This establishment has combated and overcome a multitude of difficulties; for its notes at one time, in consequence of the arts practised by the adherents to the house of Stuart, experienced a discount; and it is but a short period since, that the precious metals contained within its vaults have been kept from circulation, and all money-payments suspended by act of parliament. Even this, however, it has survived; for the known wealth of the establishment, the punctuality of its offices, and the admirable economy of their arrangements, have attracted and most deservedly retained the confidence of the nation.

Of these officers, the most eminent, most noted, and perhaps also the most respectable, is the subject

of

of these memoirs. Mr. Newland, born in 1729, or 1730, at the house of his father, a baker, in King-street, Southwark, was appointed a clerk in the bank of England, a little more than half a century ago, being nominated on the 27th February, 1748. Distinguishing himself by that regularity and order so necessary in money concerns, he rose through the various gradations of service, until January 19, 1775, when he attained the respectable and confidential office of chief cashier to the first commercial company in Europe.

He is now in the 68th or 69th year of his age, and has something commanding and respectable in his person. His deportment is also genteel, his manners are affable, and his activity and attention still exhibit a pattern for the imitation of the junior clerks. His manner of transacting business is eminently methodical; and he is known to have undesignedly given offence to a few of the subscribers to the voluntary contributions, by a rigid and minute attention to the provisos of the act of parliament, and the instructions of the directors. On this occasion, the zeal of some of the newspapers got the better of their discretion, and they made many equally ridiculous and impotent reflections on the character of a gentleman, who generously contributed 200*l.* towards the very measure of which they supposed him to be an enemy.

The wealth of Mr. N. has been the subject of much conjecture. He is certainly rich, but no suspicion can attach to this circumstance, when his opportunities,

opportunities, his emoluments, and his economy are considered. He is, however, no churl; for a sum of money being wanted for rebuilding the church of *St. Peter-le-Poor* in Broad-street, it was instantly advanced by him to the parish, at the usual interest, although he could have easily turned it to better account.

At a certain period of life, men both attain and retain habits either of regularity or dissipation. At fifteen minutes past nine o'clock in the morning, he is seen constantly at his desk, and is never absent from his duty until three in the afternoon. He resides in a *suite* of apartments in the bank, annexed to his office, as chief cashier; and being a bachelor, his establishment is not large. In a period of thirty or forty years, he has not been once absent, except during a few weeks illness; and therefore trips to Margate, Brighton, and the other fashionable watering places, have neither impeded his duties, nor added to his expence.

The only relaxation he has allowed himself for many summers past, is a daily ride in the Islington stage-coach, to a cottage at Highbury, where he drinks tea; and after contemplating *the beauties of the country*, returns regularly in the evening to the bank.

As a private character, this gentleman ranks very high; and in his social hours he is an excellent companion, enjoying the pleasures of the table in moderation, and laughing heartily at a *good story*, of which he is passionately fond.

It is almost impossible to contemplate the immense sums of *paper-money* which literally pass through his hands, both as chief cashier to the bank, and secretary and agent to the commissioners appointed by act of parliament for the reduction of the national debt, without thinking of the lines of Pope :

- “ Bless'd paper credit ! last and best supply !
 “ That lends Corruption higher wings to fly !
 “ Gold imp'd by thee can compass hardest things,
 “ Can pocket states, can fetch or carry kings ;
 “ A single leaf shall waft an army o'er,
 “ Or ship off senates to some distant shore :
 “ A leaf, like Sibyl's, scatter to and fro
 “ Our fates and fortunes, as the winds shall blow :
 “ Pregnant with thousands, flits the scrap unseen,
 “ And silent sells a king or buys a queen.”

A. D.

THE HONOURABLE (lately RIGHT HONOURABLE)

CHARLES JAMES FOX.

ALL the great men of the present day are either the offspring of, or immediately descended from, new families. The ancient nobility repose under the laurels of their ancestors. Not deigning to apply to any of the learned professions, and deeming commerce and agriculture unworthy of their pursuits (a few illustrious characters excepted) they delegate their domestic concerns to the care of their upper servants, and not unfrequently the
 business

business of the nation is entrusted to their proxies. This, perhaps, will be the best apology for the multitude of plebeian scions, recently engrafted on the stock of ancient aristocracy; and, although it may puzzle Garter, Norroy, and Clarencieux, to find them either arms or ancestors, certain it is, that the *life-blood* of nobility has been infused into the peerage through the conduit of democracy.

It may also be necessary to preface this article with another observation, of which some of the most conspicuous characters of the present political drama, afford more than one pregnant instance: that the younger sons of our nobility are more successful in their political efforts, than the elder*. This may be easily accounted for: the heir to a great fortune, and an illustrious title, knows not how soon both may devolve upon him; and when that event takes place, to what further object can his expectations point? He finds that he has been born a legislator, and that a large fortune is entailed upon his person; here, then, are wealth and honours not only within his grasp, but actually in his possession. It is otherwise with the junior branches, for they have in general but little in possession, and

* The following remarks are by the late Lord Orford, better known by the name of Horace Walpole:

“William Pitt, Lord Chatham, was a second son, and became prime minister of England. His rival and antagonist was Henry Fox, Lord Holland, a second son likewise. Lord Holland’s second son, Charles Fox, and Lord Chatham’s second son, William Pitt, are now rivals and antagonists.”

every

every thing to look for; they inherit all the exquisite relish for pleasure that their seniors enjoy to satiety, and are only deficient in the means of gratification. Like the dove of Noah, they scarcely find a resting-place for the soles of their feet, on *their own* earth; and they are exactly in the situation of an invading general who has burnt his ships, for they must go on, or perish!

Charles James Fox is the younger son of Henry, who was himself a younger son of Sir Stephen Fox, celebrated less for his own birth, than the circumstance of being a father at the age of eighty, an event not incredible, however, and rendered, in the present instance, unsuspecting, by the decorous conduct, and acknowledged virtue of the partner of his bed. Henry entered early into public life; and such was his address in parliament, during the reign of George II. that he soon attained not only some of the most arduous and honourable but also the most lucrative situations in the gift of the crown; for, in the year 1754, he was appointed secretary at war; then secretary of state for the southern department; and, after being *ousted* by the great Mr. Pitt, less celebrated under the name of Earl of Chatham, we find him filling the immensely beneficial office of pay-master general of the forces, accumulating great wealth, and thereby incurring the animadversions of the first city of the empire. Such, indeed, was his consequence, that at a time when patents of peerage were not very common, he was ennobled by his

present

present Majesty, in 1763, by the title of Baron Holland of Foxley.

His son, Charles James, was born January 13th, 1749, and if on his father's side he classed among the *novi homines*, by his mother's, his descent must be allowed to be illustrious; for Lady Georgiana Carolina Lenox was the daughter of the late Duke of Richmond; and, as such, in addition to that of the King of Sardinia, she was allied to the two rival, but related families, which had so long contested for the throne of Great Britain—those of Brunswick and Stuart.

But it is not to such claims as these that the future historian will have recourse; he will dwell with ardour on the early promise of genius, the precocious talents of the boy, the matured wisdom of the philosopher and the statesman; and while the abilities and virtues that adorn the character of his hero bring him forward on the canvas, these inefficient and involuntary pretensions will be cast into the shade, and scarcely be distinguished in the back ground.

This second son proved Lord Holland's favourite child, and at length became the darling of his old age. Perceiving in him the seeds of all the admirable qualities that constitute greatness, he was at infinite pains to give scope to his intellectual vigour, to expand the shoots, and disclose the blossoms of so promising a plant. From his earliest infancy he intended him for parliamentary business, and by conversing always with him as if he had
been

been a man, he actually made him one before the usual time*.

This country beheld, in the persons of two rival orators, two wonderful instances of statesmen, retiring, at different times, from the field of contention, and devoting the remainder of their lives to the education of their two younger sons, with whom they were accustomed to consult about public affairs, and sometimes to place on a table, in order to hear them declaim. Occupied during the early part of their days in hostilities against each other, the enmity of the families seems to have become hereditary, for it is kept up by their children, who still maintain a rivalry, even after they have abjured the principles of their respective fires.

In compliance with the future destination of his son, Lord Holland preferred a public to a private education, and accordingly sent Charles to Westminster school. After distinguishing himself there, he removed to Eaton, where Dr. Bernard, the late provost, found him not only uncommonly eager after amusements, but eminently successful in classical attainments. His private tutor, while a member of this celebrated institution, was Dr. Newcombe, afterwards Bishop of Waterford, and now Archbishop of Armagh, who, while he was frequently vexed at the dissipation of his pupil, had occasion, at the same time, to be highly gratified

* Lord Holland is said to have submitted his dispatches to the perusal of his favourite boy; and, on one occasion, is actually reported to have complied with the alterations he suggested.

with his progress. Here he formed his early friendships with the Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Carlisle, his own relation the Duke of Leinster, and some of the first men of the age. It was here also, that one of them * anticipated his future reputation, in the following lines :

“ How will my Fox, alone, by strength of parts,
 “ Shake the loud senate, animate the hearts
 “ Of fearful statesmen ! while around you stand
 “ Both Peers and Commons, list’ning your command ;
 “ While TULLY’s sense its weight to you affords,
 “ His nervous sweetness shall adorn your word.
 “ What praise to PITT, to TOWNSHEND, e’er was due,
 “ In future times, my Fox, shall wait on you.”

His father being, in the uncourtly language of those days, “ a rank Tory,” Charles was sent to finish his education at Oxford, where he is reported, in imitation of Penelope, to have regained, by his daily toils, the labours lost during his nocturnal aberrations.

At length he began to pant after a more unrestrained intercourse with society, and consequently to be disgusted with the restraints, and tired with the uniformity, of a collegiate life. The most easy, as well as most likely way to rid himself of this, was to evince an ardent desire to see the world ; and as his studies were now completed, his father, as usual, indulged the wishes of his darling son. Those who have been accustomed to

* Lord Carlisle.

see Mr. Fox of late years, without being acquainted with the minute particulars of his early life, will scarcely believe, that at this period he was one of the greatest *beaus* in England; that he indulged in all the fashionable elegance of attire, and vied, in point of *red-heels* and *Paris-cut-velvet*, with the most showy men of the times. These, and similar qualifications, were displayed in most of the courts of Europe, in the course of the grand tour; and if he did not return like his maternal ancestor *, with all the vices of the continent, he at least brought a wardrobe replete with all its fashions. Nor will a strict regard to historical truth permit the omission of more culpable transgressions, for he is said, amidst the ardour and impetuosity of youth, to have expended, or rather lavished, vast sums of money in play†, and to have contracted immense debts. Let it be recollected, however, that he was, at this very time, between two and three years short of that period, when the law declared him to be no longer a minor.

His enemies have carefully reminded us, that the first political act of his life was a violation of the jurisprudence of his native country; for at the

* Charles II.

† Dr. Bisset, in his *Life of Burke*, asserts, that his father, Lord Holland, who accompanied him to Spa, first excited an itch for play in his youthful mind, by allowing him five guineas a night to be spent in games of hazard. But as this rests on the mere assertion of that gentleman, it will be difficult to give credit to the report.

general election, in 1768, he took his seat for Midhurst, in Suffex, a borough under the influence of his family, when he was only nineteen years of age, and consequently ineligible. It is with pain too, and here reluctantly recorded, that the first effort of his eloquence was hostile to liberty *; but, besides his extreme youth, the bent of his education, the prejudices of his family, and the wishes of a fond father, ought all to be taken into consideration, and if a complete vindication does not ensue, a liberal and ingenuous mind will not be at a loss for an apology.

During all the proceedings of the House of Commons, relative to the Middlesex election, Mr. F. stood forward as the champion of the ministry, and exhibited no common address and activity on the occasion. From the first moment of his entering the senate, he, indeed, displayed all the qualities of an accomplished orator; and Lord North, then chancellor of the exchequer, deemed his merits so considerable, that, in the beginning of 1772, he nominated him to a seat at the admiralty board, and in the latter part of the same year made him, in some measure, a partner with himself, in the management of the empire, by appointing him a lord of the treasury.

* His first speech was in opposition to Mr. Wilkes, then confined in the King's Bench; and whatever the *motives* of that gentleman might be, dispassionate men will now be ready to avow, that, on this occasion, his cause was not only popular, but just.

Amidst this seeming devotion to the court, there were not wanting opportunities when he shook off the trammels of dependence, and allowed his manly mind to take its full scope. Not the least memorable of these occurred during the debate on the bill brought into the House of Commons by Sir William Meredith, to give relief from subscription to the xxxix articles of the church of England; and in the liberal sentiments delivered on that occasion, Mr. Fox has firmly and uniformly persevered, until the present moment.

But the time had now arrived, when a new direction was to be given to his pursuits. The real cause of this event, which involved so many important consequences, can only be guessed at. The sons of the Lords Guildford and Holland, were both possessed of talents; the one, perhaps, aspired to, the other enjoyed, the supreme command; and, like two great men of antiquity, the first could not brook a superior, nor the second a rival. The enmity of the premier was developed in the refusal of a petty appointment; it increased on the memorable examination of the Rev. Mr. Horne, now John H. Tooke, at the bar of the House of Commons; and finally became public in consequence of a billet, couched in terms of Spartan brevity*.

* "His Majesty has thought proper to order a new commission of the treasury to be made out, in which I don't perceive your name.

"NORTH."

"The Hon. Mr. Fox."

Considering this not merely as an injury, but an insult, the enmity of Mr. Fox from that moment became public, and he at length raised such a constitutional opposition to the administration of the noble lord, who had thus treated him in a manner bordering on contempt, that he, in the end, subverted his power, and dragged his antagonist to the very edge of the scaffold.

In the mean time Lord Holland died, leaving a large sum of money, and considerable estates in the neighbourhood of Kingsgate, with the house there, built in imitation of Tully's Formian villa, on the coast of Baiæ, to his son Charles. He was thus in possession of a plentiful fortune; and had he retained it, would have stood upon high ground in point of consequence: for these bequests, in addition to the clerkship of the Pells, in Ireland, soon after sold to Mr. Jenkinson, now Lord Liverpool, must have produced a nett annual income of more than 4000*l. per annum*.

After the dissipation of this large property, a common mind would, perhaps, have bent under the calamity; his, on the contrary, seems to have rebounded from the fall; and instead of sinking into despair, to have actually soared into celebrity, and even independence.

A new and a noble field now opened to his ambition; and he commenced his career as a patriot, on principles which Locke has upheld, and Sydney would not have blushed to support.

The members of that administration (supposed by

by some to be only the puppets of a northern peer) had rendered themselves detested by the oppression of Mr. Wilkes, the prosecution of the printers, the countenance given to the riots at Brentford, and the military execution in St. George's fields.

Another event, of infinitely greater magnitude, now filled up the bitter draught of popular odium; and the previous oppression, and threatened subjugation of America, aroused a general spirit of resistance within the mother country, and pointed the finger of public vengeance at the devoted head of the premier. Fortunately for Mr. Fox's consistency, his conduct respecting the transatlantic contest was strictly uniform; and on this, as on a subsequent occasion, he saw afar off, anticipated the impending calamities, and predicted the accumulation of misfortunes, which afterwards nearly overwhelmed the nation.

Accordingly, in 1774, he opposed the introduction of the Boston Port bill, and apologized for the conduct of the colonies. In his speech, on this occasion, he arraigned the measures of the minister in bold and energetic language; and explained the principles of the violated constitution, with a masculine eloquence worthy of the cause. The treasury-bench now began, for the first time, to calculate the loss it had sustained, the opposition to estimate the strength it had acquired; while the people rejoiced to behold, in the person of a youthful senator, whom they had been taught to consider

consider as an enemy, a firm, an intrepid, and an eloquent advocate, such as would not have disgraced Rome in her best days.

He now sat on the same seat with a Saville, a Barré, a Dunning, and a Burke, with the last of whom he had frequently broken a lance, in the war of argument, from the opposite side of the house; and he has since candidly avowed, that from this celebrated man he first imbibed those enlightened maxims of government, professed and acted upon by the pupil, alas! when the master himself seemed to have abandoned them.

On the discussion of Mr. Burke's conciliatory propositions, in 1775, Mr. F. strenuously supported the liberal schemes of policy pointed out by that gentleman; and spoke and voted, during the whole contest, in direct opposition to a criminal system, which, as it had been fondly and fallaciously prognosticated, was to produce the unconditional submission of the colonies, and lay them prostrate at the feet of the mother-country!

At length all the evils that had been foreseen were realized. America, driven to despair, declared herself free and independent; monarchical France exerted her protecting arm across the Atlantic; the capture of Burgoyne and Cornwallis proclaimed the triumphs of liberty; and a new conflagration lighted up in Europe, by the firebrands that had been scattered, by the British ministry, in another hemisphere, wasted the strength and exhausted the resources of England.

At

At the general election, in 1780, the family-borough of Midhurst falling into other hands, and Mr. F. blushing, perhaps, at the idea of violating the very spirit and essence of a constitution which he now began, for the first time, to contemplate and venerate, determined to become a candidate for the city of Westminster;—and he at length succeeded, after a violent contest, in which he baffled not only the interest of the Newcastle family, but also all the influence of the crown, both of which were powerfully, but unsuccessfully, exerted against him. Being now the representative, not of a petty venal borough, but of a great city, and that too without any expence to himself, he appeared in parliament in a more dignified capacity, and acquired a considerable increase of weight and consequence.

Soon after this the ministry began to totter, and the political *rats* were in motion, in order to desert the falling fabric. A minority, at first contemptible in point of numbers, but always formidable in respect to integrity and abilities, and which then claimed the present premier among the most zealous of its partizans, had increased in power and popularity. The ministers were assailed within by the thunders of eloquence; without, they were overwhelmed by the clamours of an indignant people: to proceed in the war, was ruin; and to recede, betrayed them into personal danger. At length “the noble lord in the blue ribbon” (as Lord North had been generally called) was hunted into
the

the toils; and it was hoped, by many, that public justice awaited his misdeeds: for in a contest in which oceans of blood had unjustly flowed, some one must have been criminal; and who more proper for an expiatory sacrifice, than the ostensible author of so many calamities? Alas! had punishment been but inflicted on one single solitary individual, all our subsequent calamities would have been averted, and the world taught to believe, that even in respect to *great offenders*, some connexion still existed between guilt and punishment!

But the Rockingham party contented themselves with the defeat of their opponents; and Mr. Fox was nominated to a seat in the cabinet, and appointed one of the Secretaries of State. The merit of this short-lived administration was conspicuous. Notwithstanding they had succeeded to an empty exchequer, and a general war, they yet determined to free the people from some of their numerous grievances; and had they remained a little longer in power, infinitely more would have been effected. Contractors were excluded, by act of parliament, from the House of Commons; custom and excise officers were disqualified from voting at elections; the proceedings, with regard to the Middlesex election, were rescinded; while a reform-bill (rather specious, however, in name, than reality) abolished a number of useless offices. A more generous policy was also adopted in respect to Ireland; a general peace was already meditated; an ancient ally

was

was attempted to be soothed by an offer of negotiation*; and America, which could not be restored, was at least intended to be conciliated.

In the midst of these promising appearances, the nobleman, who was the key-stone that supported the discordant materials of the political arch, died suddenly, and the council-board was instantly divided by political schisms.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, who appears, at this time, to have had the ear of the king, but not a majority in the cabinet, was immediately intrusted with the reins of administration; and Mr. Fox determining (to make use of his own language) “never to connive at plans in private” which he could not publicly and consistently “avow,” retired from office with a numerous and respectable body of his friends.

In the mean time, the party left in possession of all the great offices, concluded a peace with America, France, and Holland; but their administration proved of short duration, for a grand political confederacy had now been formed against them. This, under the name of “the coalition,” soon subverted their power, and supplanted them in office. No event, in our time, has produced more obloquy than the alliance between Mr. Fox and Lord North; and it is not to be concealed, that

* Mr. Fox, wishing to detach the Dutch from the coalition with the house of Bourbon, wrote a letter to M. Simolin, the Russian minister, in which he offered to form a new treaty, on the basis of that of 1764.

it was even then pregnant with inauspicious results, and has since been productive of the most sinister consequences, as it enabled an ambitious young man to give the first stab to the constitution, by setting a vote of the House of Commons, hitherto deemed inviolable, at defiance. The "India bill," of which Mr. Burke is said to have been the penman, proved the rock, on which the vessel of the ill-paired colleagues foundered; and it is not a little memorable, that their more fortunate rivals revived this very measure, and carried it triumphantly through parliament!

We now behold Mr. Fox once more divested of power, reduced, on a sudden dissolution of parliament, to shelter himself against accidents in the representation of the Orkney Isles*; and to contend with an unexampled perseverance for a seat as member for Westminster; which, after a memorable scrutiny, and an immense expenditure, supported by the great aristocratical families in his interest, he at length obtained.

He has since been re-elected to the same honourable post, and has steadily combated, as a representative of the people, the influence of the crown;—that influence which, in his opinion, alone constitutes and produces all their grievances. His subsequent conduct has been such as to restore the

* This is rather incorrect; Mr. Fox being returned for the district of boroughs, called Tain, Dingwall, &c. &c. Even here, however, he was opposed by Sir John Sinclair, but the interest of the present Lord (then Sir Thomas) Dundas finally prevailed.

current

current of popularity, and raise his name higher than before. His grand maxim, and surely it is immediately connected with the prosperity, and, perhaps, the existence, of a manufacturing and commercial country, is the maintenance of peace. With this object in view, he opposed a contest with Russia, about the fortrefs of Oczakow; and a conflict with Spain, concerning the peltry of Nootka Sound.

During the first stages of that melancholy event which led to the regency bill, Mr. Fox was wandering through the delightful regions of modern Italy, and seemed enchanted once more to tread on classic land. From this charming spot, he was called to witness, and to participate in, far different scenes, and finally to behold the party he opposed more firmly seated in power than before.

He has been blamed for his conduct during the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, but he was supported by a majority of the House of Commons on that occasion, and by nearly all his political enemies. This measure was absolutely necessary, in order to clear the honour of the nation, and prove to the oppressed inhabitants of India, that in England they would still find avengers. It is not to be denied, however, that the trial was spun out to a most oppressive length, and that the supposed culprit at last ceased to be odious in the eyes of the people. The forms of the House of Peers, as a court of justice, are, indeed, unfavourable to the dispatch of business, but the
managers

managers ought, perhaps, either to have accelerated these, or to have withdrawn from a struggle, when they perceived that the first step towards punishment consisted in the oppression of even a guilty individual!

No sooner did the French nation evince a sincere desire to shake off the dominion of absolute power, than Mr. Fox hailed the auspicious dawn of rising liberty, and deprecated the interference of this country, in a quarrel hostile to the principles on which she had founded her proud pre-eminence. On this occasion, he experienced the dereliction of many of his former associates, and among others of that man from whose lips he had first imbibed the principles of freedom. Finding, however, that he and his friends were reduced to a scanty minority, he has since retired, in a great measure, from public business, and left the minister to triumph by means of the majorities in his interest. Nor is this all, for his name has been lately struck out from the list of privy counsellors; an event which never occurred before in the present reign, and was only once exercised during the last, in respect to a nobleman * accused of cowardice and disaffection.

As an orator, Mr. Fox is assuredly the first man of his age. He simplifies the most abstruse details, he analyzes the most complex arguments; he reduces the most subtle positions to the test of

* Lord George Germaine.

first principles. Animated himself, he animates others. Unambitious of melodious words and studied phrases, that dwell only on the ear; the ardour and precision of his reasoning assail the judgment, while the irresistible thunders of his eloquence at once influence and captivate the senses. Struggling continually against the stream of power, he yet appears inferior to no man; and he wants only to stand on the "vantage ground" of success, to be viewed as the greatest statesman of his age.

As an author, he has produced several specimens of poetical composition, which, with due culture, might have attained excellence. His verses to Mrs. Crewe have often been praised*.

His invocation "to Poverty" must, however, be allowed to be superior, although it contains a national reflection that may offend some; it ought, notwithstanding, to be recollected, that the English, *at that period*, were much disgusted with the temporising conduct of their northern neighbours:

" O Poverty! of pale consumptive hue,
 " If thou delight'st to haunt me still in view,
 " If still thy presence must my steps attend,
 " At least continue, as thou art, my friend.
 " When *Scotch example bids me be unjust*,
 " False to my word, unfaithful to my trust,

* " Where the loveliest expression to features is join'd,
 " By nature's most delicate pencil design'd;
 " Where blushes unbidden, and smiles without art,
 " Speak the softness and feeling that dwell in the heart," &c.

" Bid me the baneful error quickly see,
 " And shun the world to find repose with thee.
 " When vice to wealth would turn my partial eye,
 " Or int'rest shutting ear to sorrow's cry ;
 " Or courtiers' custom would my reason bind,
 " My foe to flatter, or desert my friend ;
 " Oppose, kind Poverty, thy temper'd shield,
 " And bear me off unvanquish'd from the field.
 " If giddy Fortune e'er return again,
 " With all her idle, restless, wanton train,
 " Her magic glass should false Ambition hold,
 " Or Av'rice bid me put my trust in gold ;
 " To my relief, then, virtuous goddess, haste,
 " And with thee bring thy daughters ever chaste,
 " Health ! Liberty ! and Wisdom ! sisters bright,
 " Whose charms can make the worst condition light.
 " Beneath the hardest fate the mind can cheer,
 " Can heal affliction and disarm despair ;
 " In chains, in torments, pleasure can bequeath,
 " And dress in smiles the tyrant hour of death !"

The letter * " To the worthy and independent Electors of the City and Liberty of Westminster," is his only avowed prose publication, and this has experienced a nearly unexampled sale, having run through twelve or thirteen large editions. On this occasion, he makes a manly appeal to his constituents ; and, in a clear and conspicuous style, deprecates the idea of foreign alliances, and insists on the necessity of acknowledging the French republic as an independent state. While alluding to the ridiculous project of subjugating that power, by external force, he expresses himself thus :

* Published in 1793.

“ The conquest of France!!! O! calumniated
 “ crusaders, how rational and moderate were your
 “ projects! O! much-injured Lewis XIV, upon
 “ what slight grounds have you been accused of
 “ restless and inordinate ambition! O! tame and
 “ feeble Cervantes, with what a timid pencil and
 “ faint colours have you painted the portrait of a
 “ disordered imagination!”

Of the *private* life of this great orator, the public may be anxious to know a few authentic particulars. Mr. Fox no longer resides any part of the year in town, having disposed of his house in South-street; when he visits London, which is but seldom, he stays sometimes at the house of his old friend General Fitzpatrick, and sometimes at a hotel in the neighbourhood of New Bond-street. Except during the shooting season, when he visits Mr. Coke, &c. in Norfolk, he lives chiefly at St. Ann's-hill, near Chertsey. There he superintends the cultivation of his grounds, enjoys the pleasures of horticulture, and amuses himself in forming his shrubberies. To “ the rose,” the theme of the Persian Poets, he seems particularly attached; for he has a parterre near his house, in which there are no less than thirty different species of this beautiful shrub. He also possesses a great taste for botany; and has been at infinite pains to render himself master of the Linnæan system.

In general, he rises about seven o'clock, mounts his horse instantly, rides to the river, and plunges

into the Thames. He then returns to breakfast, which is over before ten. The forenoon is, for the most part, dedicated to his books; and is accordingly spent in study. Before dinner, he takes a walk or ride, around the neighbouring village, sits down to table a little after three o'clock, and lives well, and like a gentleman, without any appearance, however, of luxury or ostentation. After indulging in a few glasses of port or sherry, he retires with his guests about six to the tea-room, which presents a most delightful prospect in the summer season; and after a couple of dishes of coffee, a glass of *liqueur de Martinique* is handed round to the company.

The evenings are usually dedicated to domestic entertainments. Ofttimes he reads, and then generally aloud; at other times he plays at some manly game on the lawn, or listens to the music of a favourite lady while fingering the *piano-forte*, or the pedal harp. The evening is not unfrequently spent at the HOLLAND, a charming octagon building, dedicated and inscribed to his nephew, Henry Lord Holland. From this building is to be seen a most luxuriant view of the surrounding country; but the eye is unwilling to roam abroad, as it is ornamented with beautiful paintings by the skilful hand of Mrs. Armistead.

While the hirelings of ministry are representing him as "plotting against the state," he is, most probably, perusing Homer in the original language of the immortal bard; or the "conspirator" is, perhaps,

perhaps, dandling a child in his arms, or, peradventure, if it be in the summer season, playing at trap-ball on the grass!

In person, Mr. Fox is somewhat above the middling size, and, of late years, is rather inclined to be fat. His features, which are strongly marked, exhibit an appearance of shrewdness and ability; and his eye, in the midst of debate, or the animation of an interesting conversation, flashes with fire.

No portrait has been oftener painted; and he must be a very inaccurate artist, indeed, who cannot hit off the saturnine complexion, the piercing look, and the arched and bushy eye-brow of the great commoner. The chissel, as well as the pencil, has been employed in giving durability to his resemblance; for a great number of busts have been executed, of late years, in marble, by * Nollekens; and one in *terra cotta* has still more recently been finished by Merchant, as a model for a gem.

The following address to Mr. Fox, is by one of the greatest scholars of the age:

* No less than thirty-two have been finished by this sculptor, at sixty guineas each, for the Empress of Russia, the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland, Lord Albermarle, &c. &c. &c.

CAROLO JACOBO FOX

Quòd veram illam & absolutam eloquentiam
non modò coluerit, sed cultam, qua potuit,
ad Salutem Patriæ Dignitatemque tuendam contulerit;

Quòd in suscipiendis sive amicitiiis, sive inimicitiiis,
has semper voluerit Mortales
habere, illas Sempiternas;

Quòd Mente solida invictaque permanserit in proposito,
atque improborum spreverit minas;

Quòd in Causa, quæ maxime popularis esse debuisset,
Non populariter ille quidem,
ut alii fictæ et fallaciter populares,
sed strenuè ac fortiter versatus sit;

Quòd denique, in fœdissimo illo
Optimî prudentissimique Senatus naufragiò,
Id demum, imò id solum,
quod turpe esset,

Miserum existimârit, atque adèò cum bonis
Libere πολιτευτέον statuerit,
potius quam periculose & simulate & cupide
inter malos,

Librum huncce ea, qua par est, Observantia.

D.D.D.

A. E. A. O.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

TO attempt the delineation of the life and character of a minister of state, is, at all times, a difficult, delicate, and sometimes a dangerous task; for the passions of the generality of men are too much agitated to attend to cool discussion while they contemplate the immediate political situation of their country, more especially at a period like the present, so replete with important and singular events.

The subject of this article is, in many points of view, the most conspicuous prime minister which modern Europe has ever beheld; whether he be considered in respect to his splendid talents, his wonderful success, or the singular events which have occurred during his administration. His history will include the annals of the most remarkable epoch in modern times; and he will be justly deemed by future ages, the master spring which gave motion to the proceedings of all the cabinets of Europe. A large share of the good or evil which may result, will be solely ascribed to his councils. In short, he may be considered as uniting the striking qualities of the Cecils, the Walsinghams, the Richlieus, the Mazarines, the

H 4 Straffords,

Straffords, the Louvois, the Alberonis, and the Walpoles; for to none of these is he inferior either in abilities or in eloquence.

This country never had a minister of whom such different opinions have been entertained as of the present, and indeed no former one was ever placed in such critical circumstances. In short, the memorable history of this statesman, comprising, as it necessarily must, a review of his political operations, will be resorted to, at some future period, as one of the most interesting and instructive performances that can occupy the attention of mankind.

William Pitt, the illustrious Earl of Chatham, had three sons, of whom, the present minister, is the youngest. He was born May 8, 1759, at a time when his father's glory was at its zenith; and when, in consequence of the wisdom of his councils, and the vigour and promptitude of his decisions, British valour reigned triumphant in every part of the globe.

On the accession of his present majesty, that great statesman, in consequence of new arrangements, chiefly occasioned by the rising influence of the Earl of Bute, retired from the station which he had so honourably filled; and consigning his other sons to the care of others, he devoted his own time to the education of WILLIAM, on a strong and well-founded persuasion (as he was in the habit of saying) that "he would one day encrease the glory of the name of PITT."

His

His classical knowledge Mr. Pitt acquired under the care of a private tutor at Burton-Pynsent, the seat of his father; and the Earl took great pleasure in teaching him, while still a youth, to argue with logical precision, and to speak with elegance and force. He judiciously accustomed him to the practice of making accurate enquiries respecting every subject that caught his attention, and taught him not to remain satisfied with a superficial observation of appearances.

These lessons brought him into an early practice of cool and patient investigation, rarely, if ever, acquired by those who prefer the trappings of eloquence, and the showy ornaments of language, to plain sober diction, and pertinent matter of fact.

Under such an able paternal guide, an acute mind could not fail to imbibe a store of sound practical knowledge. The earl, with his usual perspicacity, fancied he saw in his son a future statesman, and, in all probability, a future minister of his country also. It was a laudable ambition in a father, and to gratify it he spared no exertions; directing his whole attention to the great object of rendering his son accomplished in all things requisite to form a public character, and to preserve the lustre already attached to the name of WILLIAM PITT.

He, himself, frequently entered into disputations with him, and encouraged him to converse with others, upon subjects far above what could be expected from his years. In the management of these

these arguments, his father would never cease to press him with difficulties; nor would he permit him to stop, till the subject of contention was completely exhausted. By being inured to this method, the son acquired that quality which is of the first consequence in public life—a sufficient degree of firmness, and presence of mind, as well as a ready delivery, in which he was wonderfully aided both by nature and education.

That he might enjoy all the benefits of instruction which this country could give him, and, at the same time, by a rapid progress in the preliminary studies, qualify himself early for the senate, he was taken, at between fourteen and fifteen years of age, from his father's roof, and the care of a very enlightened and worthy clergyman, Mr. (now Dr.) Wilson, and sent to Pembroke college, Cambridge, where he was admitted under the tuition of Messrs. Turner and Prettyman, both very able men, and willing to second, to the utmost of their power, the intentions of his father. Mr. Prettyman was also his private instructor, and a better choice could not have been made, as far as classical and mathematical knowledge were concerned. For eloquence he could not look up to either of his instructors; but his father's example and precepts required no further assistance on that head.

In Cambridge he became a model to the young nobility and fellow-commoners; and it was not doubted that, if the privileges of his rank had not exempted him from the usual exercises for the bachelor's

bachelor's degree, he would have been found among the first competitors for academical honours. On his admission, according to custom, to his master's degree, the public orator found it needless to search into his genealogy, or even to dwell much upon the virtues of his father, for the eyes of the university were fixed on the youth; the enraptured audience assented to every encomium, and each breast was filled with the liveliest presages of future greatness. To the honour of Mr. Pitt it must be spoken, that he has been duly sensible of the care taken of his rising years. His tutors have received repeated marks of his acknowledgment. Dr. Wilson, his first instructor, is now canon of Windsor; and one of his sons has a lucrative sinecure in Jamaica. The worthy Dr. Turner is Dean of Norwich; Dr. Prettyman has received the Bishopric of Lincoln, and the Deanery of St. Paul's, and will, doubtless, not be overlooked in future promotions.

Mr. P. was afterwards entered a student of Lincoln's Inn, and made so rapid a progress in his legal studies, as to be soon called to the bar, with every prospect of success.

We are informed, that he once or twice went upon the Western circuit, and appeared as junior counsel in several causes. He was, however, destined to fill a more important station in the government of his country, than is usually obtained through the channel of the law.

At the general election, 1780, we find him
nominated

nominated by some of the most respectable persons in Cambridge as a candidate to represent that university; but notwithstanding the high character he had obtained there, he found very few to second his pretensions. In the following year, however, he was returned for the borough of Appleby, by the interest of Sir James Lowther. On taking his seat in the House of Commons, he enlisted himself on the side of the party which had constantly opposed the minister, Lord North, and the American war, and which regarded him with a degree of veneration; recognising in his person the genius of his illustrious father revived and acting, as it were, in him. His first speech was in favour of Mr. Burke's bill; and one of the first acts, in which he took the lead in that House, was extremely well calculated to increase his popularity; this was his motion for a committee, to consult upon the most effectual means to accomplish a more equal representation of the people in parliament. His propositions were, indeed, rejected; but he continued to repeat and renew them from time to time; and thus kept up the public attention to this great object, which was, consequently, more generally canvassed than it ever had been before.

On the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, the old Whig party fell into a state of disunion, nearly bordering upon dissolution. A new arrangement took place soon after, and Lord Shelburne became the first Lord of the Treasury, assisted by Mr. Pitt, who astonished the country, and,

and, indeed, all Europe, by the phenomenon of a Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of *twenty-three!*

His popularity at this period effectually screened him from every charge which his youth and inexperience might justly have warranted, and which were strongly urged against him by the adverse faction. The situation of the country was extremely critical. The American war had become generally odious; and all hearts panted for a cessation of hostilities. This desirable object was, therefore, the first consideration with the new ministry.

The combined powers had recently experienced great humiliations, and consequently the opportunity was not to be lost. A general peace accordingly took place; but the terms of it were reprobated by a considerable part of the nation. On this occasion, Mr. Pitt delivered a most masterly defence of himself and his colleagues, which produced a corresponding, though not successful, effect. The administration, of which he was one of the most distinguished members, was, therefore, short-lived. On its dissolution, the young statesman withdrew into retirement, and afterwards went abroad for some time, visiting Italy, and several of the German courts.

On the coalition-ministry coming into place, Mr. Mansfield's seat for the university became vacant, by accepting the office of solicitor-general, and Mr. Pitt determined to oppose him: with this view he went down to Cambridge; but was treated
with

with contempt, by the heads and senior members. One almost threw the door in his face, and wondered at the impudence of the young man, thus to come down and disturb the peace of the university! From such a scene he retired in a few days, in disgust; though the assurances of support from several independent masters of arts, kept alive the scanty hopes of future success. A few months, however, changed the scene; the coalition-ministry was thrown out, he repaired in triumph to the university, was received with open arms, carried his election by means of a considerable majority, and was able, also, by his influence, to make Lord Euston his colleague. For a time, the tergiversation of the senate was a theme of conversation; the most notorious of the gown who had changed sides were marked by the contempt of the unsuccessful, but they laughed at their own disgrace, being gratified by the rewards of the successful candidates; mitres, and stalls, and livings, became the portion of the Cambridge men. But few of the independent masters, who would have supported him when out of power, and did so on his accession to the ministry, were to be found among his voters at the next election; they considered him as having receded from those principles of liberty, on which he had first acted; for he had now become cool in his zeal for that reform of parliament, which had, in conjunction with his great talents, first entitled him to their notice.

An occasion, as we have just remarked, suddenly offered, in 1784, for bringing Mr. Pitt forward
once

once more on the great theatre of politics, as a candidate for fame and power. The British dominions in India had long been in an alarming situation, and it was generally admitted that an immediate remedy was indispensably necessary to preserve them. With this view, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, formed, digested, and brought forward his famous India bill, which he carried through its several stages with a high hand.

The coalition-ministry, composed of such an heterogeneous mixture, notwithstanding their majority in the House of Commons, were generally obnoxious to the nation, and this measure was particularly offensive to the great body whom it immediately affected. Lord North and his new allies were accordingly dismissed, and that too in a very unconstitutional manner, and Mr. Pitt, the new Premier, was assisted by the advice of Lord Thurlow, as keeper of the great seal—arrangements which, at that time, were, however, only considered as temporary !

He now astonished the commercial and political world, by his own India bill ! He had, however, the mortification to find the majority of the House of Commons against him ; and he was placed in the peculiar situation of a minister acting with a minority, and that too in opposition to the strongest conflux of talents ever combined against any administration. He, however, remained firm in his seat amidst a general confusion ; and though the House had petitioned his Majesty, to dismiss him and his coadjutors, our young Premier ventured to inform

inform the representatives of the nation that their petition could not be complied with!

This struggle between the Commons and the Crown was of the greatest importance; but the people, at large, were of opinion, that the former encroached upon the regal prerogatives; and on the question being, in a manner, thrown into their hands by a dissolution of Parliament, a new one was returned, which changed the majority, and preserved the Premier in a post which he has sturdily maintained ever since!

Various public measures have, of course, during a period of fourteen years, been brought forward by this active minister; to notice which, would far exceed the bounds of a memoir, so limited in its object, as the present. They are incorporated in the history of his country, and at present familiarly recollected by his contemporaries.

The commercial treaty with France was a bold scheme, and evinced deep political and mercantile knowledge. But the most critical circumstance in the annals of Mr. Pitt's administration, and that on which his biographer should dwell the most, is the period when the regal powers were, in a manner, unhappily suspended, and all the wisdom of the legislature was required to form a regency. It was a crisis not only novel, but of extreme magnitude, as likely to become the precedent for future times; no such incident having, till then, occurred in the annals of our history.

Some statesmen would have worshipped the rising sun; Mr. Pitt, and his colleagues, however, pursued
a different

a different course, and thereby added greatly to their popularity, and effectually secured themselves in power.

But if, on some occasions, he has courted the favour of the people, he certainly has not always sacrificed at their shrine. He appears, indeed, to have a proper conception of the value in which popular esteem is to be held, but to be sensible, at the same time, that it ought not to influence the conduct of a legislator, if evidently repugnant to the true interests of the country.

When the revolution took place in France, the situation of the prime minister of this kingdom became once more extremely critical.

The aspect of Europe has assumed a new face, since the monarchy of France was shaken from its ancient basis. A war has ensued totally different from all former wars. In judging, therefore, of the merits of those who are concerned in managing the affairs of the nation, it is impossible to have recourse either to precedents, or to old political principles. A new mode of action, a new scheme of politics, was to be devised, and adapted to the existing circumstances.

If any merit be due to boldness of invention, to vigour of execution, to wide extension of plans, and to firmness and perseverance of conduct, certainly the present administration has an undoubted claim to public gratitude; it must, however, be allowed, that they are accused of having trenched more than once on the liberties of the people.

An attention to commerce has greatly distinguished Mr. Pitt's administration, particularly during the present contest. Perhaps there is no man in the kingdom better acquainted with the principles of trade than he is. The oldest, and most experienced, merchants have been astonished at his readiness in conversing with them upon subjects of which they thought themselves exclusively masters. Many who have waited upon him in full confidence that they should communicate some new and important information, have, to their great surprise, found him minutely and intimately acquainted with all those points to which they conceived he was a stranger. By the close attention which he has uniformly paid to the mercantile interests, he has also secured to himself an exclusive basis of support, which has enabled him not only to resist a most vigorous opposition, but to carry into effect financial measures until his time deemed impracticable.

Some men have charged him with political tergiversation, on the ground of having abandoned, if not opposed, the project of a parliamentary reform. If he really considers such a reform as no longer necessary, it will not be difficult to exonerate him from this heavy accusation. But there certainly is a great difference between absolute apostacy, and an occasional cessation from a particular system of opinions or line of conduct. It does not follow that Mr. Pitt is an enemy to necessary reform, because he considers the existing circumstances of the country as too critical to admit the trial of the experiment.

As

As a public speaker, the minister is not to be characterized by over-strained parallels, drawn from the orators of antiquity. He possesses rather the elegance and grace of Cicero, than the fire of Demosthenes. He displays, however, more of the acute logician, than of the persuasive rhetorician; but his voice, though clear and powerful, possesses not those modulations that charm the ear, and steal upon the heart. His deficiencies, however, are more than counterbalanced by a conclusive and forcible method of reasoning, added to a facility of stating his arguments, which makes them not only conceivable to the meanest understanding, but gives them frequently a precision and vigour which may be pronounced irresistible.

The Premier also possesses an advantage of inestimable value, in a minister of state, namely, a great command over his temper, added to much coolness, during the ardour of debate.

This enables him to reply clearly and particularly to the arguments of his opponents, and to defend his cause, by often turning their own weapons upon themselves. Though he is confident, and, frequently, it must be confessed, even arrogant, in his speeches, which sometimes provokes the opposition orators to use harsh language, yet he seldom loses his own temper, or retorts in anger.

His action is not strictly graceful, which is, in some measure owing to the disadvantage of an exterior, which, however dignified, is yet not engaging;

gaging; for he is very tall, and deficient in *em bon point*. His countenance is also severe and forbidding, expressive, indeed (in the language of physiognomists), of a capacious mind, and inflexible resolution; but also of a too lofty, and, perhaps, unbending spirit.

Mr. Pitt forms, in all points, a direct contrast to his political opponent: and it is certainly a curious circumstance, that two such extraordinary men should be as opposite in their private characters, as in their public career. In debate, Mr. Fox is vehement, Mr. Pitt cool. The one is frank and open, the other close and reserved. The urbanity of the ex-minister gains him friends, among all parties; the *bauteur* and *sang froid* of the Premier, does not conciliate even his associates.

Mr. Pitt is the same guarded and unbending politician in his social hours, that he is in the House of Commons.

In private life, his sole pleasures are of an official and convivial nature.

Ambition is the ruling passion of his soul, before which every other sinks into insignificance; and at the shrine of this goddess, and at that of Bacchus, he is supposed alone to pay his devotions. That his health and talents may not suffer by the latter, and that his country may prosper under the influence of the former, is the earnest wish of the writer of this article,

J. W.

ERASMUS

ERASMUS DARWIN, M.D. F.R.S.

THIS celebrated man is the son of a gentleman of landed property, near Newark-upon-Trent. From a country school he was transferred to the university, and entered at St. John's, Cambridge, where, being intended for the practice of medicine, he took the degree of M.B. in 1755; and in his thesis defended the opinion that the motion of the heart and arteries are produced by the immediate *stimulus* of the blood.

On the death of the present king's father, when all the men of talents in the nation bewailed the loss of a prince whom they had fondly hoped would prove a future Mæcenas, he contributed to the Cambridge collection of odes and elegies; but his verses on that occasion do not seem to have conferred any reputation on their author, as they were undistinguished from the exertions of far inferior talents, and afforded no great promise of future excellence.

After an education, admirably adapted to his intended profession, and a previous degree of M.D. Dr. Darwin determined to practise; and finding the business of the capital entirely monopolized by a few men of celebrity, brought into notice by the zeal of friends, the interest of family connexions, and the recommendation and protection of the great, he determined to settle in the country. Luckily for the city of Lichfield, that place was pitched upon for the scene of his labours, and he

resided there for a great number of years. If he still retained a taste for poetry, it was either carefully suppressed, or the favours of the muse anxiously concealed; he, however, distinguished himself as a philosopher and physician, for as far back as 1758, he published in vol. L. of the Philosophical Transactions, "An Attempt to confute the Opinion of Henry Earle, concerning the Ascent of Vapour;" and "An Account of the Cure of a periodical Hæmoptoe, by keeping the Patient awake." This was followed by "Experiments on Animal Fluids in the exhausted Receiver."

In the mean time, he had bred his son Charles, a promising young man, to his own profession, and sent him to Edinburgh, then, as now, the great European school of physic. There he was unfortunately carried off by a fever, at the very time he was enquiring into the nature and cure of diseases, before he had attained the 20th year of his age*. To the sorrowing father was left the mournful task of being the editor of his posthumous work; and he accordingly published, in 1780, "Experiments establishing a Criterion between Mucilaginous and Purulent Matter: and an Account of the Retrogradé Motions of the Absorbent Vessels of Animal Bodies in some Diseases."

In 1782, the Botanical Society of Lichfield published Linnæus' "System of Vegetables," which

* Dr. D. has five sons, and several daughters, now living; one of the former, practises the law at Derby; another is a physician at Shrewsbury.

is thought to have been chiefly the production of Dr. Darwin, one of its two principal members.

Early in 1789, enlisted again by science in the train of the muses, he burst forth like a comet in the hemisphere of poetry, by the publication of the "*Botanical Garden*;" Part II.* containing "*the Loves of the Plants*," which then made its first appearance. The idea of the sexual system had been long before elucidated by the great Swedish naturalist; and it, indeed, seems to have been coeval with, and, most probably, long anterior to Claudian:

"Vivunt in Venerem frondes; nemus omne per altum,
 "Felix arbor amat; nutant ad mutua Palmæ
 "Fædera, populeo fuspirat Populus ictu,
 "Et Platani Platanis, Alnoque affibelat Alnus."

The poem consists of four cantos; the three first of which are followed by a dialogue, and the preface contains a summary of the Linnæan arrangement. The intention of this part of the work is to render an attachment to botanical studies at once more common and more delightful.

"BOTANIC MUSE! who, in his latter age,
 "Led by your airy hand the Swedish sage,
 "Bade his keen eye your secret haunts explore,
 "On dewy dell, high wood, and winding shore;

* Four editions of this volume, and three of the second, have been already published. The greater part of his "*Botanical Garden*" is said to have been composed by him twenty years before its publication.

- " Say on each leaf how tiny graces dwell ;
 " How laugh the pleasures in a blossom's bell ;
 " How insect loves arise on cobweb wings,
 " Aim their light shafts, and point their little stings."

The scientific turn of the notes, and the agreeable medium of the poetry*, excited an uncommon degree of curiosity for the publication of Part I. containing "the Economy of Vegetation;" which, on account of some experiments, was delayed until 1791. On this occasion, he recurs to Lucretius :

- " It Ver, et Venus ; et Veneris prænunciûs ante
 " Pennatus Graditur Zephyrus Vestigia pròpter,
 " Flora quibus mater, præspèrgens ante Viai
 " Cuncta coloribus egregiis et odoribus opplet."

At the beginning of Canto I. the genius of the place, the scenery of which is borrowed from a garden, about a mile from Lichfield, where a cold bath was erected by Sir John Floyer, solicits the appearance of the goddess presiding over botany, who, on her descent, is received by Spring and the Elements. Then follow the explosion of chaos, the revolution of the stars, the appearance of lightning, the rainbow, luminous flowers, the glow-worm, fire-fly, electric-eel, medusa, steam-engine, &c.

The

* Some of the lines are peculiarly expressive, such as

- " On her fair bosom sits the demon ape
 " Erect, and balances his bloated shape ;
 " Rolls in their marble orbs his gorgon-eyes,
 " And drinks with leathern ears her tender cries."

The

The following lines deserve great praise; and not the least merit is, that posterior discoveries seem to be fast realising the predictions of the poet:

" Soon shall thy arm, UNCONQUER'D STEAM! afar
 " Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car;
 " Or on wide-waving wings, expanded, bear
 " Thy flying chariot through the fields of air.
 " ——— Fair crews triumphant, leaning from above,
 " Shall wave their flutt'ring 'kerchiefs as they move;
 " Or warrior-bands alarm the gaping crowd,
 " And armies shrink beneath the shadowy cloud:
 " So mighty Hercules o'er many a clime
 " Wav'd his huge mace in Virtue's cause sublime,
 " Unmeasur'd strength with early art combin'd,
 " Aw'd, serv'd, protected, and amaz'd mankind.——
 " First," &c.

The second Canto commences with an address to the Gnomes. We then find the earth thrown from a volcano of the sun; its atmosphere, ocean, and journey through the zodiac, are described. We hear of primeval islands, paradise, or the golden age; the first great earthquakes, continents raised from the sea, &c.

The third, and last Canto, commences with an address to the Nymphs; next follows the theory of rain and of tides, an account of marine animals,

The "vampire-wings" of the ague, "the young wonder," with which the cherubs, while riding on their little reeds,

" ——— touch the sliding snail,

" *Admire his eye-tipp'd horns, and painted mail,*" &c.
 are expressions peculiarly felicitous.

rivers,

rivers, boiling fountains in Iceland, and warm medicinal springs, such as Buxton, &c. &c.

It is easy to perceive, in this very interesting performance, that Dr. Darwin has had recourse to the Rosicrucian machinery, in his "Botanic Garden," for the same reason that Pope adopted it, in his celebrated poem of "The Rape of the Lock." In the formation of the planets, he employs the doctrines of Buffon; in his natural history, he bends at the shrine of the Swede, while he follows the new doctrines respecting air, from the Priestleian and Lavoisierian systems.

A deep attention to botany, and a thorough conviction of the advantages arising from system, induced Dr. Darwin to turn his mind towards the improvement of his own profession, and to become, as it were, the Linnæus of Medicine. Impressed with this novel idea, in the beginning of 1794, he published the first volume of his "Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life;" in which, leaving his former work in possession of the vegetable world, he proposes, "to reduce the facts belonging to animal life into classes, orders, genera, and species; and, by comparing them with each other, to unravel the theory of diseases."

Much preliminary matter is given in separate sections, respecting the immediate organs of sense; and an able theory of ideas follows. We next meet with the laws of animal *causation*, and an exemplification of the transitions of irritative into sensative,
and

and of sensitive into voluntary, motions; on this occasion, we find a dissertation on *unperceived ideas*, and learn, "that all our perceptions are ideas excited by irritation, and succeeded by sensation." Respecting the doctrines of *stimulus* and *exertion*, the author is a great advocate for the system of the late unfortunate Dr. Brown, which he ably and amply elucidates and explains.

Proceeding in an ascending ratio, he considers sleep and reverie, giddiness and drunkenness; with an account of the diseases arising from the last of these, &c. &c.

In 1796, vol. II. made its appearance; and as the former may be considered as strictly theoretical, this contains a practical application of the principles, and is divided into two grand sections; containing, first, the nature and cure of particular diseases; and, secondly, the operation of medicines.

Of this work, it has been said, by a celebrated professor of the medical art, that the "*Zoonomia* bids fair to do for physic, what the *Principia* of Sir Isaac Newton has done for natural philosophy:" after this, it would be folly to add our mite of praise.

Dr. Darwin now resides at Derby, where he enjoys an extensive practice, and universal esteem. His time is entirely devoted to his professional duties, and literary avocations. Entirely devoid of that affectation of stateliness, so common in pretenders to science, he freely communicates his
knowledge,

knowledge, and possesses an inexhaustible fund of anecdote and good humour. When the weather permits, he spends much time in his botanic garden; and is now occupied about an important work on agriculture.

While his ample and capacious mind grasps the grandest operations of nature, he can yet condescend to comparatively trifling labours, provided they be connected with human happiness. A proof of this exists in the attention lately paid by him to a subject in which the dearest interests of society are involved—the education of females, or the best means of making affectionate daughters, good wives, and tender mothers.

SIR GEORGE LEONARD STAUNTON, BARONET,

IS the son of a gentleman, of small fortune, in the county of Galway, in the kingdom of Ireland, and was sent by his parents, early in life, to study medicine at Montpellier, where he took the degree of M.D. After he had finished his studies, he repaired to London, and employed himself in translating some medical essays, written by Dr. Storck of Vienna; possessing wonderful facility in the attainment of different languages, he at the same time drew up in French, for the *Journal Etranger*, a comparison between the literature of England and France.

About

About the year 1762, Dr. Staunton embarked for the West-Indies, as we find from a farewell letter written to him by the late Dr. Johnson, given by Mr. Boswell in his Life of that great man. This epistle is replete with excellent advice, and does equal credit to the writer, and the person to whom it is addressed.

Dr. S. resided, for several years, in the West-Indies, where he acquired some addition to his fortune by the practice of physic; purchased an estate in Grenada, which he cultivated; and had the good fortune to obtain the friendship of the present Lord Macartney, governor of that island, to whom he acted as secretary, and continued in that capacity until the capture of it by the French, when they both embarked for Europe. Having studied the law, while in Grenada, Dr. S. filled the office of Attorney-general of the island.

Soon after Lord Macartney's arrival in England, he was appointed governor of Madras, and took Mr. S. with him (for he seems now to have lost the appellation of *Doctor*) as his secretary. In this capacity, Mr. S. had several opportunities of displaying his abilities and intrepidity, particularly as one of the commissioners sent to treat of peace with Tippoo Sultaun, and in the seizure of Gen. Stuart, who seemed to have been preparing to act by Lord Macartney as had been before done by the unfortunate Lord Pigot. The Secretary was sent with a small party of seapoys to arrest the general, which
he

he effected with great spirit and prudence, and without bloodshed.

On his return to England, the India Company, as a reward for his services, settled on him a pension of 500*l. per annum*; the King soon after created him a baronet of Ireland, and the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of LL.D.

It having been resolved to send an embassy to China, Lord Macartney was selected for that purpose, and he took his old friend and countryman along with him, who was not only appointed Secretary of Legation, but had also the title of Envoy-extraordinary and Minister-plenipotentiary bestowed on him, in order to be able to supply the place of the ambassador in case of any unfortunate accident.

The events of this embassy, which, on the whole, proved rather unpropitious, are well known, and are given to the public in two quarto volumes, written by Sir George *. When we consider the short time he took to compile them, added to the severe illness he actually laboured under, and with which he was attacked soon after his return, we cannot withhold our praise and approbation.

As a further proof of the esteem in which the India Company held Sir George Staunton, they

* The Dutch East India Company have since undertaken a similar embassy, and the very interesting narrative of it by VAN BRAAM has lately made its appearance in the English language, in two volumes, octavo.

appointed

appointed his son *, who accompanied him in the former voyage, a writer to China ; and had the father's health permitted, he would, probably, again have attended Lord Macartney in some honourable and confidential station to his government at the Cape of Good Hope.

The memoirs of Sir George, if drawn up at full length, would exhibit many instances of a strong and ardent mind, labouring occasionally under difficulties, and surmounting dangers by patience, talents, and intrepidity. His conduct in the seizure of General Stuart, demonstrates his resolution and presence of mind ; and when treating with Tippoos, he had the address to induce M. Suffrein to suspend hostilities, even before he had received advice from his court of the treaty of peace being signed between Great Britain and France.

MR. TAYLOR, THE PLATONIST.

THE subject of this article from his enthusiastic and undiverted attachment to the religion and philosophy of Plato, has been called, by different writers, "the modern Pletho †," "the apostle of Paganism ‡," and "the gentle priest of England §."

* This son, when only twelve years of age, embarked as page to the Ambassador, and was particularly noticed by the Emperor, on account of his various attainments.

† In the second edition of the *Curiosities of Literature*.

‡ See *Analytical Review* of his *Sallust*.

§ See *Pursuits of Literature*

This

This very singular man was born in London, in the year 1758, of obscure but worthy parents ; and though in his literary career he has accomplished Herculean labours, yet we are informed that his body has been, from his childhood, weak and diseased ; for, at the early period of six years of age, alarming symptoms of consumption induced his family to remove him to Staffordshire. On returning thence, in his ninth year, he was sent to St. Paul's school, to be educated for a dissenting minister. Here, it seems, he soon gave indications of that contemplative turn of mind, and that aversion to merely verbal disquisitions, which have since become such predominant features in his character. In proof of this, Mr. Ryder, one of the masters of the school, whenever a sentence occurred remarkably moral or grave, in any classic which young Taylor was translating to him, would always preface it by saying to the youthful Platonist : "Come, here is something worthy the attention of a philosopher *." The boy, indeed, was so disgusted with the arbitrary manner in which the dead languages are taught in that, as well as in all other publick schools, that he entreated, and at length prevailed on his father to take him home, and abandon his design of educating him for the ministry. The pa-

* Thus too, at an early period, one of the first scholars of the age, discovered the *critical* turn of his mind : for when, on reading the Latin Testament, *at* *Jesus* was printed instead of *ait* *Jesus*, he shrewdly conjectured that *at* must be a verb, and be derived from *ao*.

rent complied indeed, but with great reluctance, as he considered the office of a dissenting minister, the most desirable and the most enviable employment upon earth!

About this time Mr. T. happened to become acquainted with a Miss Morton, the eldest daughter of a respectable coal-merchant in Doctor's Commons, for whom, although he was but twelve years of age, he conceived such an attachment, as neither time nor distance could dissolve or impair. This young lady (his present wife) had received an elegant education, and to an agreeable person, united uncommon modesty, liberality, and artless manners. Mr. T. has often declared that he was then as deeply in love as the most famous hero of romance, and that to see and converse with his adored fair one, formed the very summit of his wishes.

During his residence at home, while his father was yet undetermined as to his future situation in life, he happened to meet with Ward's "Young Mathematician's Guide," and was so struck, in looking over the book, with the singularity of *negative quantities*, when multiplied together producing *positive* ones, that he immediately conceived a strong desire to become acquainted with mathematics. His father, however, who was deeply skilled in modern theology, but utterly unacquainted with this sublime and most useful species of learning, was, it seems, averse to his son's engaging in such a course of study; notwithstanding this, Mr. T.'s ardour soon enabled him to triumph over all opposition, by

K

devoting

devoting the hours of rest to mathematical lucubrations, though to accomplish this he was obliged to conceal a *tinder-box* under his pillow.

To his early acquaintance with those leading branches of mathematical sciences, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, Mr. T. ascribes his present unrivalled attachment to the philosophy of Plato, and all the substantial felicity of his life.

About this time, viz. at the age of fifteen, Mr. T. was placed under an uncle-in-law at Sheernefs, who happened to be one of the officers of that dock-yard. Here, at his leisure hours, which were but few, he still pursued the study of the speculative part of mathematics; for he was early of opinion that those sciences were degraded when applied to practical affairs, without then knowing that the same sentiment had been adopted by Pythagoras, Plato, and Archimedes. Here, likewise, he read Bolingbroke and Hume, and by studying their works became a convert to the *sceptical philosophy*.

The behaviour, however, of his uncle-in-law was so very tyrannical, and his opportunities for the acquisition were so very inadequate to his thirst for knowledge, that after having been condemned to what he considered a state of slavery during three years, he determined to break his fetters, and, as he could find no other refuge from oppression, cast himself at once into the arms of the church.

For this purpose he left Sheernefs, and became, during the space of two years, a pupil of one of the most celebrated dissenting preachers. Under this gentleman

gentleman he recovered his knowledge of the rudiments of the Latin and Greek tongues, but made no great advances in the attainment of these languages, as his mind, naturally propense to the study of things, required an uncommon stimulus, to make it stoop to an attention to words. This stimulus, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle could alone inspire.

Mr. T. it seems, during this course of ministerial education, renewed, with redoubled ardour, his acquaintance with Miss M.; and, what indeed is singular in the extreme, was able to unite in amicable league, courtship and study. Hence he applied himself to Greek and Latin in the day, paid his addresses to his fair one in the evening, and had the courage to begin and read through the Latin quarto of Simson's Conic Sections at night.

About the same period Mr. T. entered on the study of the modern philosophy, and thinking himself qualified by his knowledge of the more abstruse parts of mathematics, to understand the system of the universe as delivered in the *Principia* of Newton, he began to read that difficult work. We are informed, however, that he soon closed the book with disgust, exclaiming, "Newton is, indeed, a great mathematician, but no philosopher!" He was principally induced, it seems, to form this conclusion, by Sir Isaac's assertion * "that every the least possible particle of matter or body, attracts all bodies at all distances; that the being, what-

* Prop. 6. 7. & 8. l. 3.

“ ever it is, that attracts or impels bodies towards
“ each other, proceeds from those bodies to which
“ it belongs, and penetrates the whole substance of
“ the bodies on which it acts.” It appeared to him, that from this assertion it must inevitably follow, that bodies act immediately or by themselves, without the intervention of any other being, in a place where they are not, since attraction is the *immediate* action of attracting bodies; that they thus act in many places at the same time; that they penetrate each other; and that the least particle of matter is extended as far as the limits of the universe: all which consequences he considered as glaringly absurd.

Thus far the stream of Mr. T's life may be said to have run with an equal tenour, limpid, and unruffled, compared with its course in the succeeding period, in which it resembled some dark river rolling with impetuous rage to the main.

The time now drew nigh, in which he was to leave his fair one for the university. But as her father, in his absence, intended to marry her to a man of large fortune, who had made her the offer of his hand, Miss M. to secure herself from the *tyrannical* exertion of parental authority, generously consented to unite herself to our philosopher, on condition that nothing further than the marriage ceremony took place, till he had finished his studies at Aberdeen. This he immediately assented to, and the indissoluble knot was tied.

But when the fates are adverse, how vain are the most prudent projects! how unfortunate the most generous

generous intentions ! The low cunning of Mr. T.'s mother-in-law discovered the secret, soon after the union of the platonic pair ; who, from a combination of ecclesiastical indignation with parental rage, were for a time exposed to the insult of undeserved reproach, and the bitterness of real distress.

We find, however, that they exculpate their parents on this occasion : Mr. T. entirely ascribing his father's conduct to the malicious misrepresentation of his mother-in-law, and the anger of the church, and Mrs. T. to the unnatural and selfish conduct of some of her very near relations.

Such was the distressed situation of this young couple at this period, that we are informed they had no more than seven shillings a week to subsist on, for nearly a twelvemonth ! This was owing to the base artifice of one of Mrs. T.'s relatives, who was left executor, and who prevailed on her father, then in a dying state, to let him pay what he had left her as he pleased. Mr. T. endeavoured indeed to obtain employment as an usher to a boarding-school ; but it was some time before he was able to effect this, as he was abandoned both by friends and relatives, and could not even borrow ten shillings and sixpence, which it seems is the usual fee of those who procure such situations.

At length he was separated from his partner in affliction, and settled as usher to a boarding-school at Paddington. As his embarrassments were such, that he was unable to remove Mrs. T. from Camberwell, where she then resided, and the only time

he was permitted to see her was on Saturday afternoon, he could enjoy but little of her company. This little, however, was doubtless dear in proportion to its brevity, and the remembrance of past pain would, it may be presumed, be lost in the overflowings of reciprocal love.

Mrs. T.'s affection was, indeed, as we are informed, so great for her unfortunate husband, that though then in a state of pregnancy, she almost deprived herself of the necessaries of life. that she might purchase, out of her weekly pittance of seven shillings, a comfortable dinner for Mr. T. on Saturday ; and many letters, it seems, during this painful separation passed between them, replete with sentiments expressive of the most tender and disinterested regard.

Mr. T. however, finding the situation of an usher in itself extremely disagreeable, and when attended with occasional absence from his partner in calamity, intolerable, determined, if possible, to obtain a less irksome employment ; and at length, by the unremitting exertions of his few friends, he procured a clerk's place in a respectable banking-house in the city. In this station, however, he at first suffered greatly ; for as his income was but fifty pounds a year, and this paid quarterly, and as he had not any money to spare, and could not from his embarrassments quit his lodgings at Camberwell, he was unable to procure nutriment in the course of the day adequate to the great labours he endured. Hence, he was so exhausted by the time he
had

had reached home in the evening, that he frequently fell senseless on the floor.

We are informed that soon after he was settled in this new employment, he took a house at Walworth, by the assistance of a friend, who had been his school-fellow ; finding a residence at some small distance from town necessary for his own health and that of Mrs. T. and much more favourable to the cultivation of his mind, of which he never seems to have lost sight, even amidst the lassitude of bodily weakness, the pain incident to uncommon fatigue, and the immediate pressure of want.

About this time Mr. T.'s studies, it seems, were chiefly confined to chemistry. Of all the authors in this branch of natural philosophy, he was most attached to Becher, whose *Physica Subterranea* he read with great avidity, and became a complete convert to the doctrines of that illustrious man. He did not, however, neglect mathematics ; but, in consequence of having thought much on the quadrature of the circle, and believing he had discovered a method by which the rectification of it might be geometrically, though not arithmetically, obtained, he found means to publish a quarto pamphlet on that subject, which he entitled " A new Method of reasoning in Geometry." The substance of this, as it did not then attract much attention, he has since given to the world in a note, in the first volume of his translation of Proclus on Euclid.

Hitherto Mr. Taylor's studies may be considered

as merely preparatory to those speculations which were to distinguish him in the literary world, at least, they are considered in this light by the followers of Plato. It appears too, that, without knowing it, he was led to the mystic discipline of that sublime philosopher, in the exact order prescribed by his disciples; for he began with studying the works of Aristotle. He was induced, it seems, to engage in this course of study, by a passage in Sir Kenelm Digby's treatise "on Bodies and Man's Soul," in which he says, "that the name of Aristotle ought never to be mentioned by scholars but with reverence, on account of his incomparable worth." This eulogium from a man who was very far from being a Peripatetic, determined Mr. T. to enter on the study of Aristotle, as soon as he could procure any of his works, and had sufficiently recovered his knowledge of Greek.

By a fortunate circumstance, he soon met with a copy of that philosopher's *Physics*, and before he had read a page, was so enamoured with his pregnant brevity, accuracy, and depth, that he resolved to make the study of Aristotle's philosophy the great business of his life. Such, indeed, was his avidity to accomplish his design, that he was soon able to read that great master in the original; and has often been heard to say, that he learned Greek rather through the Greek philosophy, than the Greek philosophy through Greek.

However, as he was regularly engaged in the banking-

banking-house till at least seven in the evening, and sometimes till nine or ten, he was obliged to devote part of the night to study. Hence we are informed that, for several years, he seldom went to bed before two or three o'clock in the morning; and having, by contemplative habits, learned to divest himself during the time which he set apart for study of all concern about the common affairs of life, his attention was not diverted from Aristotle, either by the inconveniencies arising from his slender income, or solicitude about the business of the day.

By the assistance of Aristotle's Greek Interpreters, Mr. T. read the Physics, the books *de Anima*, *de Cælo*, Logic, Morals, and Metaphysics, of that philosopher: for, in his opinion, a man might as reasonably expect to understand Archimedes, who had never read Euclid, as to comprehend either Aristotle or Plato, *who wrote obscurely from design*, without the assistance of their Greek commentators. Hence he has often been heard to say, that the folly of neglecting the invaluable commentaries of the ancients, on those philosophers, is only to be equalled by the arrogance of such as affect to despise them; since these interpreters possessed a traditional knowledge of the Greek philosophy, had books to consult on that subject which are now lost, spent their whole lives in the study of it, were men of the deepest erudition, and must have been infinitely better qualified to explain the meaning of the text of Plato
and

and Aristotle, than any modern can pretend to be, because the Greek was their native tongue. Mr. T. even carries his attachment to them so far as to assert, that from the oblivion in which they have been so long concealed, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle has not been accurately understood for upwards of a thousand years.

Mr. T. therefore, who, by divesting himself at night of those habits of business which he had been contracting during the day, may be said, in this respect, to have resembled Penelope, made it a constant rule to digest what he had learned from Aristotle, while he was walking about with bills. This, when he was once master of his employment, he accomplished with great facility, without either committing mistakes, or retarding his business. We are, indeed, informed from good authority, that while in that department, he was always distinguished for accuracy and dispatch.

Having in this manner applied himself to the study of Aristotle, and presuming that he was now sufficiently instructed in his philosophy, he betook himself to the more sublime speculations of Plato; considering the Peripatetic discipline, when compared with that of Plato, as bearing the relation of the less to the greater mysteries: and in this light it seems, the two philosophies were always considered by the best of the Platonists.

Mr. T. had not long entered on the study of Plato, before he met with the works of Plotinus, which he read, we are told, with an insatiable
avidity,

avidity, and the most rapturous delight, notwithstanding the obscurity of that author's diction, and the profundity of his conceptions. After having been well imbued in the doctrines of Plotinus, he studied the six books of Proclus, on the Theology of Plato, a work which he found to be so uncommonly abstruse, that he has been heard to say, he did not thoroughly understand it till he had read it thrice over.

While he was engaged in the study of Proclus, who appears, upon the whole, to be, of all the Platonists, Mr. T.'s greatest favourite, the celebrated Mrs. Woolstoncroft, and her friend Miss Blood, resided with our Philosopher for nearly three months. Mr. T. has been known to observe of Mrs. W. that during her stay with him, he thought her a very modest, sensible, and agreeable young lady; he added, that she often heard him explain the doctrines of Plato, and was always pleased with his conversation on that subject; but confessed herself more inclined to an active, than a contemplative life. She frequently complimented him on the tranquillity of his manners, and used to call the little room which he made his study, "the abode of peace."

Mr. T. further remarked, that he afterwards called on her when she lived in George street, and that he has there drank wine with her out of a *tea cup*; Mrs. W. observing at the time, that she did not give herself the trouble to think whether a glass was a necessary utensil in a house. He has
also

also heard her say, “ that one of the conditions she
“ should make previous to marriage, with the man
“ she intended for her husband, would be this—
“ that he should never presume to enter the room
“ in which she was sitting, till he had first knocked
“ at the door.”

But to return from these eccentricities (which would not have been worthy of remark in a woman of less merit), to our Platonist. When Mr. T. had been nearly six years at the banking-house, he became disgusted with the servility of the employment, and found his health so much impaired from the combination of severe bodily and mental efforts, added to an incurable disorder in the bladder, which he had laboured under for a long time, that he determined to emancipate himself, if possible, from thralldom, and live by the exertion of his talents.

In order to effect this, he turned his attention to a subject, which he had often thought on in the days of his youth, viz. the possibility of making a *perpetual lamp*; being convinced, from the works of Licetus and Bishop Wilkins, that such lamps had been constructed by the ancients. He began, therefore, to make some experiments with phosphorus, determining for a while to descend from mind to matter, and stoop in order to conquer. In the course of these experiments, he found that oil and salt boiled together, in a certain proportion, formed a fluid, which when phosphorus was immersed in it, both preserved and increased its splendor.

In consequence of this discovery, he exhibited at the Free Masons' tavern a specimen of phosphoric light, sufficient to read by at the distance of a yard ; but the room in which this was shewn being small, and very warm from the weather and the number of persons that came to see it, the phosphorus caught fire ; and thus raised a prejudice against the invention, which could never afterwards be removed. This exhibition, however, procured Mr. T. such friends as at length enabled him to emancipate himself from the banker's, and procure subsistence for himself and his family by literary toil *.

His first effort after this to emerge from obscurity, was by composing twelve Lectures on the Platonic philosophy, at the request of Mr. Flaxman, the statuary, who had been one of the auditors of Mr. T.'s Lecture on Light, and who very benevolently permitted him to read his dissertations in the largest room of his house. He likewise procured for him some very respectable auditors, such as Sir William Fordyce, the Hon. Mrs. Damer, Mrs. Cosway, Mr. Romney, &c. &c. and was the means of his becoming acquainted with Mr. Bennet Langton, well known for his great intimacy with the late Dr. Johnson.

To this gentleman he read his Platonic Lectures, with which Mr. L. was so much pleased, as like-

* This, we are informed, was principally through the means of Mr. Geo. Cumberland, the author of several ingenious works.
wife

wife with the conversation, and uncommon application which our Platonist had given to study, that he at length mentioned him to the king, under the appellation of a *gigantic reader*, in hopes that the rays of royal attention might be so strongly collected upon him, as to dissipate the obscurity in which he was then involved, and give additional vigour and ardour to his pursuits. Mr. L. it seems, mentioned him thrice to his majesty, who was pleased to enquire after his family, and to express his admiration of Mr. T.'s ardour and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge, in a situation so unfavourable to its acquisition as that of a banker's clerk; but we do not find that this well-meant effort on the part of Mr. L. procured our Platonist any patronage from the throne.

About this time, Mr. T. became acquainted with Mr. William Meredith, of Harley-place, a circumstance which he justly considers as forming one of the most important and fortunate events of his life. This gentleman, in addition to an ample fortune, possesses a most elegant and liberal mind; and though concerned in a very extensive trade, has found leisure for the study of the best English writers, and the best English versions of the works of the ancients. He became deeply enamoured with the doctrines of Plato, from reading Mr. Sydenham's translation of some of that philosopher's dialogues; and this fondness for Plato, at length, occasioned his attachment to Mr. Taylor.

Under the very noble and singular patronage of
this

this gentleman, and his brother Mr. George Meredith, Mr. T. was enabled to present to the world his translation of "The Hymns of Orpheus," the "Commentaries of Proclus on Euclid," and "The Fable of Cupid and Psyche." The abilities of the latter of these gentlemen in the art he professes*, and his knowledge of the Gothic architecture, which he has displayed in many beautiful drawings, have seldom been equalled, and will rarely be excelled. We likewise do not in the least doubt, but that Mr. T. in the course of his stormy life, has experienced the liberality of both these gentlemen, upon occasions with which we are entirely unacquainted.

While Mr. T. was engaged, under the patronage of Messrs. W. and G. M. in translating and illustrating, at his leisure hours, the Commentaries of Proclus, the Marquis de Valady took up his residence, for three or four months, at his house. As the public have already been much gratified with anecdotes † of this singular character, and especially his adventures with Mr. T. we shall insert, in addition to those, the following particulars, which our Platonist has been heard to mention respecting him.

The Marquis, who professed himself a rigid Pythagorean, under the notion, that a community of possessions in *every thing* was perfectly Pythago-

* Architecture.

† See "Biographical Anecdotes of the Founders of the French Republic," vol. I. second edition.

ric, often conversed with Mr. T. on this subject, and once asked him, if he did not think it consistent with Pythagorean friendship, for the wife of the married to be shared with the unmarried friend? The *hint was broad*, but Mr. T. thought proper not to take it; on the contrary, he severely reprobated the idea, as entirely foreign from that purity of conduct which forms the basis of the Pythagoric and Platonic philosophy.

He likewise once told Mr. T. that if he had a son, he should make him, as soon as he had the proper use of his limbs, climb a high tree every morning for his breakfast; and would afterwards fling him into a river, in order to teach him to swim.

Dining once, at Mr. Bennet Langton's, with Mr. T., Mr. (now Dr.) Burney, and many other eminent scholars, he exclaimed to his friend, as soon as he left the house, "God keep me from 'Critics!'" This was occasioned by a dispute which arose, at that time, respecting the propriety of the epithet *ocean stream*, which Mr. T. had made use of, in his translation of one of the Orphic hymns. Mr. T. urged, in his defence, that this epithet was employed by Homer, Hesiod, and Plato. To this Dr. B. replied, that Homer, indeed, had the expression *ωκεανον ποταμον*, *the ocean river*, but that a *river* was not a *stream*. Mr. T. then observed, that these words were considered as synonymous, by no less poets than Milton, and Mr. John Denham. By Milton, when speaking of the leviathan (Paradise Lost, book i.), he says,

“ ————— or that sea-beast

“ Leviathan, whom God of all his works

“ Created hughest, that swim th’ *ocean stream*.”

And by Denham, in the first of his famous lines on the Thames:

“ O could I flow like thee, and make thy *stream*

“ My great exemplar, as it is my theme.”

The genius of the Marquis seemed naturally inclined to war. Whenever he went to bed, he was heard to repeat, as he was going up stairs, those animated lines of Neptune to the Greeks, from the *Iliad* by Pope:

————— “ On dastards, dead to fame,

“ I waste no anger, for they feel no shame!”

And if ever any one attempted to prove, that modern warriors were equally heroic with the ancient ones, he would indignantly exclaim, in the words of Minerva to Tydides:

“ Such Tydeus was, and such his martial fire;

“ Gods! how the son degenerates from the fire!”

We find that Mr. T. soon after the Marquis left him, came into the possession of six or seven hundred pounds, in consequence of the death of a relation of his wife. A considerable part of this, it seems, was spent by him, in relieving the necessities of his own relations; but he was not sufficiently a man of the world, to know how to dispose of the remaining part of it to his own advantage. About

five or six years after this, he again seems to have laboured under the pressure of want; to relieve which, with incredible diligence he translated and illustrated, with copious introductions and some notes, five of the most abstruse of Plato's Dialogues, in the short space of about seven months; the copy-right of which he sold for no more than forty pounds!

After this, he wrote his "Dissertation on the Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries," in consequence of some considerable information on that subject, which he had obtained from the perusal of three Greek manuscripts, in the British Museum. One of these, it seems, is the Commentary of Proclus on the Parmenides of Plato, and is a folio volume, consisting of upwards of five hundred pages. This, with the other two, which are, likewise, folio volumes, of no inconsiderable size, Mr. T. had the courage to copy, for his own private use.

Shortly after this, he translated the Platonic Sallust "On the Gods and the World;" the "Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus;" and five Hymns of Proclus; likewise two Orations of the Emperor Julian; and five Books of Plotinus: all which, we are informed, he sold for no more than twenty pounds!

But the most laborious of all his undertakings, and for which he seems to have received less, in proportion, than for any of his other publications, was his translation of Pausanias. When this task

was

was first proposed to Mr. T. by the bookseller; Mr. Samuel Patterfon, well known to the literary world, by several very ingenious publications, happening to be present, observed, "that it was enough to break a man's heart:" "O," replied the bookseller, "nothing will break the heart of Mr. T.!" This Herculean labour our Platonist accomplished, in the space of ten months, though the notes are of such an extent, and so full of uncommonly abstruse learning, that the composition of them might be supposed to have taken up a much longer time. For that arduous work, we blush to say, Mr. T. received no more than sixty pounds; and are grieved to add, that his health was greatly injured, by his excessive application on that occasion. We are, indeed, informed, that the debility of his body became so extreme, after this, that, at times, he was rendered incapable of any exertion; and what is singular, he has, ever since, been deprived of the use of his fore-finger in writing.

Our Platonist, however, in a short time, exhibited an indubitable proof, that he possesses an ardour which neither toil can abate, embarrassments impede, nor even debility extinguish; and which, like gunpowder set on fire, seems to rise with renewed vigour, in proportion as it has been compressed. Notwithstanding the extreme lassitude of his whole bodily frame, and the difficulty with which he was able to write, he engaged, under the patronage of an anonymous gentleman of

fortune, to translate all those dialogues of Plato, which have not been clothed in our national dress by Mr. Sydenham, and others, together with his epistles; in order that by revising what has been already done, he might give the whole of Plato to the world, in an English garb. This great undertaking, we understand, he accomplished in the space of about two years; and the work now only waits for a liberal subscription, to be made public.

Under the patronage, too, of the same gentleman, he has translated the greater part of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics; and at present we hear Messrs. W. and G. Meredith have engaged him to give an English version of Aristotle's Metaphysics, of which he has already nearly accomplished the three first books.

That respectable patriot, Mr. Thomas Brand Hollis, has been, for many years, very much attached to our Platonist; he frequently invites him to his table; and he has always shewn himself extremely active in promoting his welfare.

We shall only add, that Mr. T. is at present assistant secretary to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; a situation which he obtained by a very considerable majority of votes, through the uncommon exertions of his friends; and that, prior to this, some of them had procured him a place in one of the public offices; to the fatigues of which, finding his strength by no means adequate, and the employment appearing to him extremely servile, he relinquished

relinquished it, almost immediately after his nomination, and composed the following lines on the occasion :

To ev'ry power that reigns on high,
 Swifter than light my thanks shall fly,
 That, from the B***'s dark dungeons free,
 I once more hail sweet liberty !
 For sure, I ween, fate ne'er me doom'd
 To be 'midst fordid cares entomb'd,
 And vilely waste in groveling toil,
 The mid-day blaze and midnight oil,
 To some poor darkling desk confin'd ;
 While the wing'd energies of mind
 Oppress'd, and crush'd, and vanquish'd lie,
 And lose, at length, the power to fly.

A doom like this be his alone,
 To whom truth's charms were never known ;
 Who many sleepless nights has spent,
 In schemes full fraught with *cent. per cent.*
 The slave of av'rice, child of care,
 And lost to all that's good and fair.

GENERAL ROBERT MELVILLE.

THIS gentleman is a native of North Britain, possessed of a landed property in Fifeshire, and descended from a branch of an ancient and noble family of the same surname ; the chief of which is the Earl of Leven and Melville. The ancestor of that noble family is held to be the first Norman who came into Scotland and settled there ; he was a person of distinction in his native country, named

de Malville, or de Melville, and accompanied William the Conqueror into England, but having soon met with some cause of disgust, he secretly withdrew, before the end of 1066, to the Court of King Malcolm Canmore, who received him very courteously; soon after we find him possessed of lands in Midlothian, called the Barony of Melville; and, it is said, there still remain in Normandy very ancient families of *noblesse* of the *de Melvilles*, and since of Melville Castle. Both the general's parents having died when he was very young, the superintendence of his education devolved upon his guardians, who were very careful in their attention to that duty. The first part of it was at a reputable school at Leven, in Fifeshire, where it was said that he was early remarkable for a lively and quick apprehension, with a most retentive and capacious memory, so that the progress he made in learning was very rapid; and afterwards, when a student in the university of Edinburgh, he was no less successful in his studies. His fortune being but moderate, it was the wish of his guardians that he should embrace one of the learned professions in aid of it; but his own genius strongly prompting him to a military life, and having always taken great delight in reading warlike exploits, these circumstances, joined with the favourable occasion of a war on the continent, he could not resist the temptation; to give, however, the less offence to his guardians, he withdrew without consulting them; and having made a stolen march to London, with

with the knowledge only of one confident in Scotland, near the end of 1743, he very soon after wrote from the capital such an explanatory letter to his guardians as was, in all points, satisfactory to them. They, accordingly, furnished him with sufficient sums, or credit, to carry him by Holland to the Netherlands, and to support him there as a volunteer in the British army, according to his own desire, until a commission should be procured or purchased for him. Thus authorised and equipped, young Mr. Melville passed over into Holland, and having made the previous tour of it, he proceeded next by Antwerp and Mechlin to Brussels, early in 1744, where, or in Ghent, then garrisoned with British troops, he remained until the month of March. His guardians having, by this time, obtained for him, by purchase, an Ensign's commission in the twenty-fifth regiment, then commanded by the Earl of Rothes, and serving in the allied army, he joined it in the spring, at the camp of Anderlecht, near Brussels. He served, during that campaign, under Field Marshal Wade; and in all the campaigns following, under his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, in the Low Countries, until the peace of 1748, excepting the latter part of the year 1745, and a great part of 1746, when the twenty-fifth regiment having been, with other British troops, recalled to Britain, on account of the rebellion in the North, it served under the Duke first in England, and afterwards in Scotland, until autumn, 1746. The twenty-fifth being, at that

time, one of the three regiments sent to rejoin the allied army on the Continent, and landing at Williamstadt, proceeded with the other corps to Mæstricht, whence, by a forced march during the night, and crossing the Maese at Vifet, they joined the army so early as to share in the battle of Raucoux, which happened in October.

Ensign Melville, who had carried the colours in two of the battles, had the honour of being sent, after that of Lafeldt, by his commanding officer to the Duke of Cumberland, with the colours of the French regiment of Monaco, taken by the twenty-fifth regiment, and was immediately after promoted to a lieutenantcy. The twenty-fifth regiment, after the battle of Fontenoy, having been thrown into the fortified town of Aeth, to reinforce its small garrison, which consisted before of only one Austrian and one Dutch battalion, was afterwards, on the retreat of the Duke of Cumberland, with the allied armies, to the camp of Villvorde, near Brussels, besieged by a large body of the French army, detached by the Marshal de Saxe, under Lieutenant-general Count de Clermont Gallerunde. On this occasion, the twenty-fifth regiment merited not only the approbation of the Imperial Governor Count de Wurmbrand; but, after having marched out with the honours of war, and rejoined the allied army, received the public thanks of his Royal Highness the Duke. In this siege, Ensign Melville had a very narrow escape, for, in the beginning of it, when the enemy
threw

threw their shells only at the works, a single one, which, by the accident of an overcharged mortar, was thrown into the town, fell through his field bed, in the middle of the night, when he was on duty in an outwork.

The twenty-fifth regiment, which had only reached Edinburgh on the day of the unfortunate battle at Falkirk, under Lieutenant-general Hawley, had a share in the victory of Culloden, under the Duke of Cumberland. A detachment of it, which had been made some time before, under the command of Lieutenant Melville, formed part of the garrison of Blair Castle, a house of the Duke of Athol, commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart. which, although closely invested and besieged, during fourteen days, by the rebels under Lieutenant-general Lord George Murray, who frequently fired red-hot shot from two cannon, made such an obstinate resistance, as frustrated the enterprize and forced them to retire. During the whole of this time, Lieutenant Melville, with a small guard, had the singular good fortune to maintain a flooring in an unfinished part of the house, so very nearly beset by the enemy, as to be within hearing of almost every word they said, and receiving many stones thrown up by them.

Towards the end of 1748, when peace was concluded, the British troops in the Low Countries were recalled; the twenty-fifth regiment, which was destined for Ireland, had a remarkably tedious
and

and adverse passage from Williamstadt to Kinsale, in Ireland, of more than five months duration, in consequence of several winter storms, and only arrived in the last of the three transports in which they had embarked. The first of these having suffered great damage, and being shipwrecked on the coast of Normandy, the regiment, with part of the forty-second regiment, &c. after having been most humanely treated by the people of the country, and admitted into the city of Caen, and to mount guard in their own quarters there, an indulgence not even granted to French regiments who were not of the garrison, marched, after a stay of near six weeks, by Bayeux, and from it through several other places of Normandy to Cherbourg, where another English transport being ready to receive the troops, they speedily embarked, and were landed at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight.

Here they remained for several weeks, during which time, as well as in France, Lieutenant Melville had constantly acted as Quarter-master, until a third transport came to Cowes, when they re-embarked for Ireland: having, however, in a few days after, been overtaken in a most violent storm, between the Land's-end and Scilly Islands, they got back with much difficulty into the harbour of Falmouth, where, the ship requiring repairs, they were again landed, and remained for several weeks before they re-embarked, and proceeded to Kinsale.

From

From this period, in 1749, to the summer of 1755, when appearances indicated an approaching war with France, the twenty-fifth, with other regiments, were ordered to Britain, and to complete themselves from their former low establishment. This regiment had annually, according to the succession of quarters established in Ireland, moved from the south to the north in that kingdom, from which its destination had been to Glasgow. During the six preceding years, Captain Melville, promoted to that rank in August, 1751, had only been twice absent from Ireland; then he was employed on the recruiting service in North Britain.

Having been again, when at Glasgow, prevailed on by his Colonel, Major-general the Earl of Home, to undertake, though not his tour of duty, the recruiting service for the regiment, then very low in number, he was so fortunate, by his exertions on a new and unexceptionable plan, as soon to raise about one hundred and fifty men, forty more than any other recruiting officer had done within the same period. Having been very strongly recommended by General Bland, then Commander-in-chief in Scotland, to Mr. Fox, Secretary at War, as also having accompanied in November, 1755, the Earl of Home to London, he was soon after appointed *Aid-de-camp* to Major-general the Earl of Panmure; and in the spring of 1756 he was promoted to be Major of the thirty-eighth regiment at Antigua, in the Leeward Islands, where it had been stationed since its removal from the garrison

garrison of Gibraltar, at the beginning of this century.

This island had often been made a receptacle of offenders from regiments at home; and the military force here had, accordingly, been long composed of the most disorderly soldiers; the situation was, from these causes, much exposed to drunkenness, and other excesses, insomuch, that notwithstanding the laudable exertions to reform them by some preceding field officers who had commanded, Major Melville, when he became the only field officer present, as well as commander of the regiment, in the summer of 1768, found his most zealous and persevering efforts (with the hearty concurrence of most of the officers) absolutely indispensable for putting the regiment into the state of spirit and discipline requisite for actual service, with effect and reputation.

An armament, under General Hopson, having arrived at Barbadoes, early in December, 1758, to attack the French islands; and an express having been sent, by that general, to Governor Thomas, of the Leeward Islands, at Antigua, to detach two hundred men from the thirty-eighth regiment to join in the attack of Martinico, he was pleased, on the major's earnest application, to authorise him, though commanding officer, to proceed with a detachment, and to leave the command of the regiment to the eldest captain. The major, with the soldiers, in a transport, and escorted by a frigate, had a quick passage to Martinico, but
found

found that the attack on that island had failed, and that the troops were re-embarked to proceed against Guadaloupe, escorted by a Squadron under Commodore More. During the siege, on the side of Basterre and Fort St. Charles, Major Melville commanded the light infantry; at the advanced posts, including the detachment of the thirty-eighth regiment, with success, in all skirmishes or small actions; but in one of them, being an attack after a night's march, and surprise of a post very near to the enemy's camp, he had the misfortune to be blown up, with great danger of his life; and although he soon recovered, yet the accident was attended with such injury to his sight, that it has been thought to be the cause of his total loss of it since.

The attack, after General Hopson's death, having been transferred to the island of Grandterre, the Major was posted in an armed ship, with a detachment of the thirty-eighth regiment, at the mouth of the river Salée, to cut off the enemy's communication between the two islands; which he effectually did, until Lieutenant-colonel Debrisey, who had been left to defend the fort at Basterre, suddenly perished by an explosion of gunpowder, which destroyed some other officers and men, with great damage to a principal bastion. Major Melville was immediately dispatched, by General Barrington, to succeed him in the defence of that place (Fort-Royal), which he held until the reduction of the island; when, besides being

continued

continued governor of Fort-Royal, he was made Lieutenant-governor of Gaudaloupe and its dependencies, with the Lieutenant-colonelcy of the sixty-third regiment.

After the re-embarkation of the army under General Barrington for Britain, Lieutenant-governor Melville remained in the fort as second in command, under Brigadier-general Crump, who had been appointed to the government, until early in 1760, when, on the sudden death of that officer, the government, with the chief command of the troops, devolved on Governor Melville. Soon after this, the Governor was graciously promoted, by his Majesty, to the rank of Colonel; and although, for reasons respecting his health and private affairs in Britain, he had wished to return thither, as soon as a new governor-in-chief should arrive, yet having, during his chief command, by the most zealous and disinterested exertions, gained very great popularity among the French, and thereby paved the way for the easier conquest of the other French islands, he chose to remain in the prospect of that event, which afterwards happened to his wishes. He, therefore, did not return home after the arrival of Governor Dalrymple, in the beginning of 1761, but remaining until the arrival of Brigadier-general Lord Rollo, in the bay of Basseterre Town, with a detachment of British troops, from North-America, he joined his lordship, as second-in-command, with part of the garrison of Fort-Royal, when the island of Dominica was surprised and taken, with
very

very little loss. Colonel Melville had the command of the grenadiers, who immediately surprised and took the hill, and small battery on it, commanding Roseau.

At the beginning of next year (1762), he went to serve under General Monkton, at the reduction of Martinico, where he was soon after taken so ill with the disease of the country, as to be unable to act, until the 24th of January, when he was present at the successful attack made against the hill and battery of Tortenson, and, very soon after, the surrender of Fort-Royal, and had the satisfaction to see it followed by that of the whole island, in consequence of *a general defection in the inhabitants*, as he had expected. This was followed by the speedy submission of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Grenada, and Tobago.

Colonel Melville having returned, soon after, to England, had the satisfaction to find his military services, and general conduct, highly approved; so that, without any solicitation whatever, he was recommended by the Earl of Egremont, then secretary of state for the colonies, to his Majesty, for the chief government of Grenada, and the other ceded islands. Accordingly Colonel Melville, with the rank of Brigadier-general in America, was, in 1763, appointed, by a royal commission under the great seal, on the 9th of April, 1764, to be Captain-general and Governor-in-chief, &c. of Grenada, and all the other ceded islands.

Towards the end of October, he arrived at Barbadoes

badoes with two large store-ships, carrying many articles necessary for first settlements in the West-Indies. Tobago was then without settlers, and almost totally covered with wood ; hither Governor Melville first repaired with the store-ships and some adventurers from Barbadoes. During a short stay there, he exerted himself in preparatory measures for the future colonization of the island. He also lost no time in beginning, and carrying into effect, his Majesty's instructions for establishing the British government throughout the islands under his jurisdiction, followed by legislatures similar to those in the neighbouring British Colonies.

And although during his government (which was of about seven years' continuance, with the exception of his absence while at sea, and during his residence at London, from 1768 to February, 1770, on important public service, respecting the future security and prosperity of his government) he had to surmount numberless difficulties of various kinds; yet did the governor give very general satisfaction. Some partial complaints, by a few angry and disappointed persons, brought against him while in London, in January, 1770, and directed, in fact, rather against the King's Council of Grenada than himself, had been found so frivolous and groundless, as to be wholly and deservedly scouted.—As to any charges of peculation, the most common evils complained of in public magistracy, these were never even alleged against this governor; but, on the contrary, it was known to all, that with great opportunities
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of amassing wealth, he practised an honest abstinence, and left his government much poorer than many of the adventurers in it, who had realised their acquisitions without any property, and on mere credit and speculation. It should also be mentioned, to his honour, that Governor Melville, who was made a Major-general in 1766, discharged all the military duties of that office throughout the ceded islands, without any allowance or charge whatever to the public on that account; and, since his retirement, adhering to his favourite maxim of "taking nothing for doing nothing," he has never wished, much less solicited, for any salary, pension, or emoluments, although his latter invalidities and blindness would not have been a bar to claims so commonly allowed. His Majesty, however, has been graciously pleased to direct that his military rank should be always carried on. In consequence of which, his last promotion to be a General, was the first in order of those made on the 12th of October, 1793.

From the principles and conduct of this veteran general, both in his professional capacities, civil and military, and also in private life, many and striking proofs of active and inventive genius, of benevolence, patriotism, and disinterestedness, might be here adduced, illustrating his general character, and reflecting the greatest honour his on head and heart, would the plan and limits of this work permit us to give a greater extent to the article.

The General is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies of London and Edinburgh; by

the university of which last, his *alma mater*, he has been honoured with the degree of LL.D. He is likewise an honorary member of the Board of Agriculture, and a member of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. He is also a zealous promoter of, and benefactor to, many of the most useful public charities in this metropolis.

BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

RELIGION, in looking round among her most brilliant ornaments; and most powerful advocates during the present age, can hardly fix upon a more favourite object, than the very amiable and truly primitive prelate, who now claims our notice. Far be it from us to depreciate the merits of any divine, or to exalt the character of one member of the episcopacy at the expence of another. Still we are confident, that all ranks and parties will agree with us, that a more beautiful picture of genuine christian simplicity, united with pastoral dignity, was never exhibited to public observation, than in the subject of this biographical sketch.

Dr. Beilby Porteus is a native of Yorkshire, and was born about 1731. His father was a reputable tradesman, who, after giving his son a good education, at the grammar school of Rippon, under the Rev. Mr. Hyde, sent him to Cambridge, where he was entered of Christ's College. In this respectable society he distinguished himself by an assiduous application to his studies, directing them in an especial

pecial manner to that sacred function for which he had an early predilection, and in which he has since so eminently shone.

He took his degree of B. A. in 1752, and, in the course of the same year, gained one of the medals given for the best classical essay by the Duke of Newcastle, then Chancellor of the University. The other successful candidate was the present baron Masseres.

March 14, 1754, he was appointed one of the Esquire Beadles of the University, which office he resigned July 3, 1755, and, in the same year, took his degree of Master of Arts. Nearly about this period he was elected Fellow of his College, and was made one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel. In 1759, he obtained the Seatonian prize, for the best composition on DEATH. This poem evinces great poetical powers, and as it is the only piece of his, in this line, that has ever appeared in public, except a few verses on the demise of the late king, we trust that the reader will be pleased with an extract from it in this place. The part we select is the poet's concluding prayer :

“ At thy good time,

“ Let death approach ; I reck not—let him but come

“ In genuine form, not with thy vengeance arm'd,

“ Too much for man to bear. O rather lend

“ Thy kindly aid, to mitigate his stroke.

“ And at that hour, when all aghast I stand

“ (A trembling candidate for thy compassion)

“ On this world's brink, and look into the next ;

“ When my soul, starting from the dark unknown,

“ Casts back a wishful look, and fondly clings

" To her frail prop, unwilling to be wrench'd
 " From this fair scene, from all her 'custom'd joys,
 " And all the lovely relatives of life,
 " Then shed thy comforts o'er me; then put on
 " The gentlest of thy looks.—Let no dark crimes,
 " In all their hideous forms then starting up,
 " Plant themselves round my couch in grim array,
 " And stab my bleeding heart with two-edg'd torture—
 " Sense of past guilt, and dread of future woe.
 " Far be the ghastly crew! And in their stead
 " Let cheerful memory, from her purest cells,
 " Lead forth a goodly train of virtues fair,
 " Cherish'd in earliest youth, now paying back,
 " With tenfold usury, the pious care,
 " And pouring o'er my wounds the heav'nly balm
 " Of conscious innocence. But chiefly Thou,
 " Whom soft-ey'd Pity once led down from heav'n
 " To bleed for man, to teach him how to live,
 " And, oh! still harder lesson! how to die;
 " Disdain not Thou to smooth the restless bed
 " Of sickness and of pain. Forgive the tear
 " That feeble nature drops, calm all her fears,
 " Wake all her hopes, and animate her faith;
 " Till my rapt soul, anticipating heaven,
 " Bursts from the thralldom of incumb'ring clay,
 " And, on the wings of ecstasy upborne,
 " Springs into liberty, and light, and life!

In 1760, appeared a singular piece of infidelity under the title of "The History of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of exposing the sacred history to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. Though this performance was exceedingly deficient in point of argument, it was but too well calculated to do considerable mischief from its sophistry, boldness,

boldness, and vivacity. On this account, several able writers undertook to vindicate the scriptures, and, among the rest, our ingenious divine published a sermon, preached Nov. 29, 1761, before the University of Cambridge, which he entitled "The Character of David, King of Israel, impartially stated."

This discourse, it is supposed, first recommended him to the patronage of Dr. Secker, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who appointed him, about that time, one of his domestick chaplains, and in 1762 presented him to the rectory of Witterham, in Kent.

In 1762, the excellent prelate just mentioned, gave him the rectory of Bucking, in the same county, and also a prebendal stall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

May 13, 1765, Mr. Porteus was married by the Archbishop to Miss Hodgson, of Parliament-street, and, in the course of the same year, he obtained the valuable living of Hunton. He took the degree of doctor of divinity, July 7, 1767, and in the month following the Archbishop gave him the rectory of Lambeth, vacant by the death of Dr. Denne, with which he was allowed to hold the rectory of Hunton.

In 1768, Archbishop Secker died, and by his will confided to his chaplains, Drs. Porteus and Stinton, the revision and publication of his Lectures on the Church Catechism, Sermons &c. This trust was most faithfully executed; and to the sermons, which

were published in 1770, was prefixed an elegant memoir, respecting the venerable author, written solely by Dr. Porteus; this was reprinted in a separate form in 1798, with additions, and it is surely sufficient praise to observe, that this piece of biography obtained the approbation of Dr. Johnson.

In 1776, our divine became master of St. Cross, an option of Archbishop Secker; and in January following he was deservedly raised to the episcopal bench, on the translation of Dr. Markham from the see of Chester to the Archbishoprick of York. This promotion, it is generally understood, was owing to the immediate solicitation of the Queen, to whom Dr. Porteus had been particularly acceptable as a private chaplain, while she was indisposed. In this station he conducted himself with primitive zeal, and blended with true episcopal dignity all the simplicity and earnestness of a christian minister.

In 1776, observing the negligence with which that awful day appropriated by the church, in early ages, to the commemoration of the sufferings and death of the Redeemer was treated, especially in the metropolis, his lordship printed "An earnest Exhortation to the religious Observance of Good Friday, in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lambeth." This address, which excited considerable notice, was thought by some to breathe too much of the Puritanical spirit of the last century; and the ingenious Mr. Robert Robinson, of Cambridge, published a pamphlet in reply to it, under the title of the "History and Mystery of Good Friday."

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The Bishop, however, had the satisfaction to see, that his exhortation was attended with the desired effects. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge seconded his laudable endeavours, by causing his pamphlet to be printed in a cheap form, and circulated in great abundance; by which means, numbers were induced to pay a proper respect to this solemn anniversary; so that from that time, it has usually been kept in the metropolis, and its vicinity, with great strictness.

In 1781, he published a work, entitled, "A brief Confutation of the Errors of the Church of Rome," which was extracted from Archbishop Secker's five Lessons against Popery, and designed for general distribution.

In 1783, the Bishop of Chester preached before the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts; on which occasion he pleaded in a forcible and pathetic manner, the cause of the African slaves, in our West-Indian settlements. This sermon attracted considerable notice; and led the way to great exertions on behalf of those unfortunate victims of avarice and oppression. The same year he published a volume of Sermons, on several subjects, some of which had been printed before, seperately; these deservedly rank high, as models of the kind. He published an additional volume, in 1754.

In 1787, on the death of Bishop Lowth, Dr. Porteus was translated to the see of London, a cir-

cumstance which gave universal satisfaction to every friend of religion, whether in or out of the establishment.

In 1792, his lordship was the means of founding a society for the conversion of the negro slaves, in the West-Indies, which we have the satisfaction to find has been very successful. His exertions in the cause of Christianity have been unremitted, and conducted upon the most liberal principles. The breath of censure has not ventured to assail his name, even with the suspicion of reproach. Men of all parties have concurred in praising his candour, faithfulness, moderation, and liberality of mind.

In order to counteract the growing spirit of infidelity, his lordship commenced, during last Lent, a series of Lectures on the Truth of the Gospel History, and the Divinity of Christ's Mission, which he preached in St. James's church, Westminster. These were delivered every Friday, before crowded and admiring audiences, composed of persons of all persuasions. His warm and impressive manner, plain but forcible language, clear and convincing arguments, aided by a most captivating eloquence, not only drew from the multitudes who heard him the unanimous voice of applause, but, it is to be hoped, produced a more substantial good, in bringing conviction home to many minds.

The Bishop is, we believe, a more frequent preacher than the rest of his brethren; for he is
not

not only ready to assist public charities, by his elocution, but during his summer residence in the country, he often ascends the pulpit, to explain the principles, and enforce the precepts, of our sublime religion.

We cannot close this imperfect sketch of so amiable a character, without mentioning one part of his conduct, which entitles him to additional praise: the point we allude to, is the moderate spirit he has manifested in the agitation of political questions. Though he has uniformly voted with his Majesty's ministers, he has not made himself an active partizan, by throwing fuel upon the unhappy fire which distracts the public mind. On the contrary, he has steered that pacific course, which becomes an ambassador of the Prince of Peace; the apostle of him, who so emphatically said, that "he was not the king of this world." It would add not a little to the dignified independence of our establishment, if all his brethren were to follow his example,

Bishop Porteus is not only eminent for his piety, but also for his literary accomplishments, which rank him among the most elegant scholars of the age. His style is pure, and classically correct; at the same time that it is remarkably plain, and free from ornament.

Besides the works already mentioned, he is the author of several Charges and small Tracts, on religious subjects.

JOSIAH TUCKER, D.D.

DEAN OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS venerable divine, so long, and so justly celebrated for his commercial sagacity, was born at Laugharn, in Caermarthenshire, in the year 1712. His father was a farmer, and having a small estate left him, at or near Aberystwith, in Cardiganshire, he removed thither; and perceiving that his son had a turn for learning, he sent him to Ruthin school, in Denbighshire, where he made so respectable a progress in the classics, that he obtained an exhibition at Jesus College, Oxford.

The journey from his native place to the university was long, and at that period very tedious, on account of the badness of the roads. Our young student for some time travelled on foot. At last, old Mr. Tucker, feeling for his son's reputation, as well as for his ease, gave him his own horse, that he might visit Oxford more reputably.

Upon his return, young Josiah, with true filial affection, considered that it was better for him to walk to Oxford, than, as had been the case, owing to this new regulation, for his father to repair on foot to the neighbouring markets and fairs. The horse was returned; and our student, for the remainder of the time he continued at the university, actually trudged backwards and forwards, with his baggage at his back!

At

At the age of twenty-three, he entered into holy orders, and served a curacy for some time, in Gloucestershire.

About 1737, he became curate of St. Stephen's church, Bristol; and was appointed minor-canon in the cathedral of that city. There he attracted the notice of that profound divine, Dr. Joseph Butler, then Bishop of Bristol, and afterwards of Durham. In consequence of this, his lordship appointed Mr. Tucker his domestic chaplain; and the latter has told the writer of this article, that they frequently walked in the palace-gardens, in the dark, conversing upon metaphysical and theological subjects.

Oftentimes the good bishop would be sunk in a profound reverie, in which he would continue for a considerable period, and then, all at once, break out with some singular remark. After one of these occasional absences of mind, he suddenly asked Mr. Tucker, "whether he did not think it possible, that whole communities of men might be seized with a fit of madness?"

The question was so odd, that the chaplain was silent, and thought his lordship's intellects a little disordered, for the time. A greater share of experience, and a closer observation of mankind, especially during great political epochs, have, perhaps, given our divine reason to think there is more justness in the observation, than he was, at first, inclined to suppose.

By the interest of this amiable and learned prelate

late, Mr. Tucker obtained a prebendal stall, in the cathedral of Bristol; and on the death of the pious and ingenious Mr. Catcott, well known by his *Treatise on the Deluge*, and a volume of excellent Sermons, he became rector of St. Stephen. The inhabitants of that parish consist chiefly of merchants and tradesmen, a circumstance which greatly aided his ardent inclination for commercial and political studies.

In 1745, he preached an excellent sermon, before the governors of a very laudable institution, then first erected in the city of Bristol. In this discourse, the preacher took a course which has rarely been pursued: instead of dwelling, as most have done, upon the benevolent tendency of these establishments, he considered them “as so many
“reformatories, or schools, erected for the revival
“and propagation of morality and religion, and
“as means which may conduce towards a national
“reformation, in the common people.”

After mentioning, briefly indeed, but pointedly, the general depravity of the lower ranks, he says,
“Nay, and when their extravagancies have run to
“that height as to call for *corporal punishment*, and
“the censure of the magistrate, there are no hopes
“or prospect of *reclaiming* them by that means.
“For they have made it a sort of point of honour
“to outbrave the punishment; as for the shame
“and infamy attending it, these things make *now*
“but little impression on them: so that we have
“nothing left of discipline in our places of chastisement

“tishment and confinement, but their names.
“For our *houses* of correction, as they are called,
“are so far from answering the original ends of
“their institution, that they *corrupt* more than
“*correct*, and *harden* rather than *reform*; so as to
“make the *young* offender, if sent there, to be
“threefold more the child of hell than he was
“before.”

This strong censure, perhaps, is full as applicable to the objects upon which it was originally made, now, as above half a century back.

When the famous bill was brought into the house of commons for the naturalization of the Jews, Mr. Tucker, considering the subject with an enlarged mind, took a decided part in favour of the measure, and was, indeed, its most able advocate.

Its opponents, transported with an extraordinary zeal for the Christian religion, which they affected to think was in danger by this step, treated our divine with great rudeness and virulence on the occasion. He was not only severely attacked in pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines; but the *pious* people of Bristol, who had, perhaps, hardened their hearts into intolerance by a traffic in human flesh, burnt his effigy dressed in canonicals, together with his letters on behalf of naturalization!

In 1753, he published an able pamphlet on the “Turkey Trade,” in which he demonstrates the evils

evils that result to commerce in general from chartered companies.

At this period, Lord Clare (afterward Earl Nugent) was returned to parliament for Bristol, which honour he obtained chiefly through the strenuous exertions of Mr. Tucker, whose influence in his large and wealthy parish was almost decisive on such an occasion. In return for this favour, the Earl procured for him the Deanery of Gloucester, in 1758, at which time he took his degree of doctor in divinity.

So great was his reputation for commercial knowledge, which, to a nation situated like our's, is of the first importance, that Dr. Thomas Hayter, afterwards Bishop of London, who was then tutor to his present majesty, applied to him to draw up a dissertation on this subject for the perusal of his royal pupil. It was accordingly done, and gave great satisfaction. This work, under the title of "The Elements of Commerce," was printed in quarto, but never published.

Dr. Warburton, however, who after having been member of the same chapter with the Dean, became Bishop of Gloucester, thought very differently from the rest of mankind, in respect to his talents, and favourite pursuits; and said once, in his usual coarse manner, that "his Dean's trade" was religion, and religion his trade."

But in refutation of this charge, we might produce the Doctor's various publications on moral
and

and religious subjects, which shew him to be not only deeply versed in theology, but also, what is far better, a man of genuine philanthropy.

In the year 1771, when a bold attempt was made to procure an abolition of subscription to the thirty nine articles, Dr. Tucker stepped forward as an able, but moderate advocate of the church of England. Though he resisted with strong and clear arguments the claims of the petitioners on that occasion, he yet candidly admitted that some reformation of the liturgy was wanted, and instanced particularly the Athanasian Creed, which he considered as too scholastic and refined, for a popular confession of faith, and the Nicene Creed being admitted, he further deemed the other superfluous.

About this time he published "Directions for Travellers," in which he lays down excellent rules, by which gentlemen who visit foreign countries may not only improve their own minds, but turn their observations to the benefit of their native country.

That excellent prelate, Archbishop Secker, was highly pleased with this useful performance, and sent the author some observations which he had made in the course of a perusal. The public would be much gratified by a new edition of these "Directions," with the Archbishop's remarks annexed.

In 1772, the Dean printed a small volume of sermons, in which he explains the doctrines of
election

election and justification, upon scriptural grounds, in opposition to what has been called the *evangelical system of faith*. At that time a very violent dispute was carried on between the Calvinistick and the Arminian Methodists, the former headed by Messrs. Toplady and Hill, and the latter by Messrs. Wefleys and Fletcher.

The year following he published "Letters to the Rev. Dr. Kippis; wherein the claim of the church of England, as to an authority in matters of faith, and to a power of decreeing rites and ceremonies, is discussed and ascertained," &c. 8vo.

The dispute between Great Britain and her colonies in North America, began now to assume a very serious and portentous aspect, and nothing less than an open rupture was expected, in consequence of the obstinacy of the one, and the firmness of the other.

The Dean was an attentive observer of this unfortunate contest. He examined the affair with a very different eye from that of a party-man, or an interested merchant, and he discovered, as he conceived, that both sides would be better by an absolute separation. The more he thought on this subject, the more he was persuaded that extensive colonies were an evil, rather than a benefit to any commercial nation.

On this principle, therefore, he published his "Thoughts upon the Dispute between the Mother Country and America." He asserted, that the latter could not be conquered; and added, that if it
could,

could, the purchase would be dearly bought. He warned this country against commencing a war with the colonies, and advised, above all things, that they should be left to themselves; an event which would be productive of infinite good to Great Britain.

This position and advice startled all parties, as well those who were advocates for American freedom, as those who were zealots for coercive measures and taxation. By both, the Dean was considered as a sort of madman, who had rambled out of the proper line of his profession to commence political quack; and it is remarkable that those two great men, Dr. Johnson and Edmund Burke, treated the Doctor's hypothesis with great contempt, though the one was the champion of, and the other an enemy to, American taxation.

The language of the latter, in the House of Commons, respecting the Dean's proposal was, indeed, exceeding harsh and illiberal. In his famous speech on American taxation, April 13th 1774, this celebrated orator, called him "the advocate of the court faction; and, I suppose," adds he, "that his earnest labours in this vineyard will raise him to a bishopric." The Dean was actually roused into resentment on this occasion, and he accordingly published a letter to Mr. Burke, in which he not only vindicates the purity of his own principles, but retorts upon his adversary in very forcible and manly terms.

The ground of Mr. Burke's enmity to the Dean,
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originated in the latter's strenuous opposition to his being admitted to represent Bristol in the House of Commons. Dr. Tucker had a high opinion of Lord Nugent's parliamentary conduct and abilities; added to which, he owed him much on the score of gratitude. He, therefore, considered himself as bound to support his interest, with all the influence he possessed. This excited Mr. Burke's dislike to the Dean of Gloucester, and sharpened his wit on the subject of his political opinions.

Our author, however, went on vindicating and enforcing his favourite system, in spite of all the obloquy with which it was treated both in the senate and from the press. As the war proceeded, many intelligent persons began to see more truth and reason in his sentiments, and time has at last demonstrated that he was completely in the right. Towards the close of that unhappy contest, the Dean assumed the appellation of CASSANDRA, alluding to the ill success with which his warnings had been attended. This signature is found at the end of those hints and short essays which he frequently printed in the newspapers, and which it were to be wished some person would collect and preserve, lest they should sink into unmerited oblivion.

When the terrors of an invasion were very prevalent, in 1779, he circulated, in a variety of periodical publications, some of the most sensible observations ever made on the subject, in order to
quiet

quiet the fears of the people. He states at length, and with great accuracy, the numerous difficulties that must attend the attempt to invade this country, and the still greater that must be encountered by the invaders after their landing. These observations have been reprinted, with good effect, in the course of the present war.

In 1781, the Dean published, what he had printed long before, "A Treatise on Civil Government," in which his principal design is to counteract the doctrines of the celebrated Mr. Locke and his followers. The book made a considerable noise, and was very sharply attacked by several able writers on the side of liberty, particularly Dr. Towers. Since that period, it has sunk into contempt.

The year following he closed his political career with a pamphlet entitled, "*Cui Bono ?*" in which he balances the profit and loss of each of the belligerent powers, and recapitulates all his former positions on the subject of war and colonial possessions.

His publications since that period have consisted of some tracts on the commercial regulations of Ireland; on the exportation of woollens; and on the iron trade *.

In 1777, he published seventeen practical sermons, in one volume, octavo. In the year 1778

* The Dean, in one of his tracts on the dispute with Ireland, pleads strenuously, and with his accustomed ingenuity, for an union between the two kingdoms.

one of his parishioners, Miss Pelloquin, a maiden lady of large fortune and most exemplary piety, bequeathed to the Dean her dwelling-house in Queen-square, Bristol, with a very handsome legacy, as a testimony of her great esteem for his worth and talents.

It should be recorded to his praise, that though enjoying but very moderate preferment (for to a man of no paternal estate, or other ecclesiastical dignity, the Deanery of Gloucester is no very advantageous situation), he has, notwithstanding, been a liberal benefactor to several public institutions, and a distinguished patron of merit.

The celebrated John Henderson, of Pembroke College, Oxford, was sent to the university, and supported there at the Dean's expence, when he had no other means whatever of gratifying his ardent desire for study.

We shall mention another instance of generosity in this place, which reflects the greatest honour upon the Dean. About the year 1790, he entertained thoughts of resigning his rectory in Bristol, and without communicating his design to any other person, he applied to the Chancellor, in whose gift it is, for leave to quit it in favour of his curate, a most deserving man, with a large family.

His Lordship was willing enough that he should give up the living, but refused him the liberty of nominating his successor. On this the Dean resolved to hold it himself, till he could find a fit opportunity to succeed in his object. After weigh-
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ing the matter more deliberately, he communicated his wish to his parishioners, and advised them to draw up a petition to the Chancellor in favour of the curate. This was accordingly done, and signed by all of them, without any exception, either on the part of the dissenters or others.

The Chancellor yielded at last to the application; in consequence of which the Dean cheerfully resigned in favour of a successor well qualified to tread in his steps.

Since that time, he has resided chiefly at Gloucester*, viewing his approaching dissolution, which, in the course of nature, cannot be far distant, with the placid mind of a Christian, conscious of having done his duty both to GOD and MAN †.

Here follows a tolerably correct list of the Dean's works ;

THEOLOGICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL.

1. A Sermon, preached before the governors of the infirmary of Bristol, 1745.
2. Letters in Behalf of the Naturalization of the Jews.
3. Apology for the Church of England, 1772.
4. Six Sermons, 12mo. 1773.
5. Letter to Dr. Kippis, on his Vindication of the Protestant dissenting Ministers.
6. Two Sermons and Four Tracts.
7. View of the Difficulties of the Trinitarian, Arian, and Socinian Systems, and Seventeen Sermons, 1777.

* He married a Mrs. Crowe, of that city, in 1781.

† When his present Majesty visited the cathedral at Gloucester, he walked home with the Dean to his house, and appeared to be greatly pleased with his conversation.

POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

8. A pamphlet on the Turkey Trade.
9. A brief View of the Advantages and Disadvantages which attend a Trade with France.
10. Reflections on the Expediency of naturalizing foreign Protestants, and a Letter to a Friend on the same Subject.
11. The Pleas and Arguments of the Mother Country and the Colonies stated.
12. A Letter to Mr. Burke.
13. Quere, Whether a Connection with, or Separation from America, would be for national Advantage?
14. Answers to Objections against the Separation from America.
15. A Treatise on Civil Government.
16. *Cui Bono?*
17. Four Letters on national Subjects.
18. Sequel to Sir William Jones on Government.
19. On the Dispute between Great Britain and Ireland.
20. Several Papers under the signature of Cassandra, &c. on the difficulties attendant on an invasion.
21. Elements of Commerce, printed, but never published.

MISCELLANEOUS.

22. Directions for Travellers.
23. Cautions against the Use of Spirituous Liquors.
24. A Tract against the barbarous Diversions of Cock-fighting, &c.

ADMIRAL LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

WHATEVER may be thought of the origin of the present war, or the principles upon which it has been conducted; whatever humiliating ideas may, on some grounds, prevail in the minds of Englishmen

lishmen while they are reviewing the history of this extraordinary and eventful contest;—there can still be but one opinion respecting the conduct of our naval commanders, in general: and every British heart must glow with rapture at the consideration, that the honour of the national flag, so far from being tarnished in a single instance, has received greater lustre than ever distinguished it at any former period.

Among the eminent names which the pen of the historian will have to dwell upon with peculiar satisfaction, when engaged in recording the naval events of the present times, that of Adam Lord Duncan will be proudly conspicuous.

This distinguished veteran, born at Dundee, in Scotland, July 1st, 1731, was the younger son of a very ancient and reputable family, which has for a long series of years held the lordship of Lundie in the shire of Perth. The family estate, the rental of which is about 500*l.* came to Lord Duncan about two years ago, in consequence of the death of his elder brother the Colonel.

The younger branches even of a respectable family, are generally obliged to force their way in life by their own merits and exertions. Lord Duncan accordingly owed but little to his relations. He was very early sent to sea, a profession which costs but a trifle in the outset, and is generally attended with but small expence after the young adventurer is thus disposed of. Much is not known of the admiral's early services; but we are warranted in

conjecturing that they must have been meritorious, by his attaining the rank of post captain, February 25th, 1761, at which time he was appointed to the command of the Valiant, by means of that excellent officer Lord Keppel, and was ever after honoured with the friendship of that gallant commander of the old school. During last war Captain Duncan had no opportunity of displaying his nautical talents, except when he commanded the Blenheim at the relief of Gibraltar. He was with his friend at the taking of the Havannah; and when Keppel was appointed to a flag, he chose Duncan to be his Captain.

He was also a member of the court-martial which sat upon the trial of that distinguished veteran; and continued attached to him by the strongest ties of intimacy and friendship, till his death.

On September 24th, 1787, he was made a rear-admiral; in 1793, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral; and in 1795, he became admiral of the blue.

Hitherto he had moved on in his profession regularly, but with little notice, for it had not been his lot to get employed on any service likely to bring him forward to the public view.

His appointment, at last, to that station, in which he has all at once obtained laurels equal to those which adorn the brows of men who have been more extensively employed, seems to have been owing to his relationship to Mr. Secretary Dundas, whose niece he married, and by whom he has several children.

This

This alliance procured for him an appointment he was admirably fitted for, the north-sea station. Nor does it at all reflect upon his lordship, that his circumstances stood in need of his being thus employed. With hardly any other fortune than his half-pay as an admiral, it was natural enough for him to be anxious to be engaged in active service, for the benefit of a wife and children whom he loved. The scene of action which he chose was an arduous one. The severity of the winter season, in that sea, must also have been very trying to a man of his time of life. Moreover, he had to encounter with difficulties still more troublesome and painful to a British officer : we allude to the mutinous spirit which prevailed in his fleet, in common with the other naval squadrons in the Channel.

In the midst of all these unpleasant circumstances he manifested a cool and steady mind. He kept his station with such persevering ardour, in the most boisterous season of the year, that the enemy could not, by any means, effect their design of escaping from their ports. The indefatigable admiral continued blockading them, either with the whole, or part of his squadron, till the summer of 1797, when the mutiny raged in his squadron in a most alarming manner. Even when he was left with only three ships, he still remained firm in his station off the Texel, and succeeded in keeping the Dutch ships from proceeding to sea ; a circumstance, in all probability, of as high consequence to the nation as his subsequent victory,

His

His behaviour, at the time of the mutiny, will best be seen from the speech which he made to the crew of his own ship, on June 3d, 1797, and which, as a piece of artless and affecting oratory, cannot but be admired by the most fastidious taste. His men being assembled, the Admiral thus addressed them from the quarter-deck :

“ My lads—I once more call you together, with
“ a sorrowful heart, from what I have lately seen of
“ the disaffection of the fleets ; I call it *disaffection*,
“ for the crews have *no grievances*. To be deserted
“ by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a disgrace
“ which I believe never before happened to
“ a British Admiral : nor could I have supposed it
“ possible. My greatest comfort, under God, is,
“ that I have been supported by the officers, seamen,
“ and marines of *this ship* ; for which, with a
“ heart overflowing with gratitude, I request you to
“ accept my sincere thanks.

“ I flatter myself much good may result from your
“ example, by bringing those deluded people to
“ a sense of the duty which they owe, not only to
“ their King and Country, but to themselves. The
“ British Navy has ever been the support of that
“ Liberty which has been handed down to us by
“ our ancestors, and which, I trust, we shall maintain
“ to the latest posterity ; and that can only be
“ done by unanimity and obedience.

“ The ship’s company, and others who have distinguished
“ themselves by their loyalty and good
“ order, deserve to be, and doubtless *will be*, the
“ favourites

“ favourites of a grateful country ; they will also
“ have, from their inward feelings, a comfort which
“ must be lasting, and not like the fleeting and false
“ confidence of those who have swerved from their
“ duty !

“ It has often been my pride with you to look
“ into the Texel, and see a foe which dreaded coming out to meet us.—My pride is *now* humbled
“ indeed !—My feelings are not easily to be expressed !—Our cup has overflowed, and made us
“ wanton. The all-wise PROVIDENCE has given us
“ this check as a warning, and I hope we shall
“ improve by it. On Him, then, let us trust, where
“ our *only* security can be found.

“ I find there are many good men among us ; for
“ my own part, I have had full confidence of all
“ in this ship : and once more beg to express my
“ approbation of your conduct.

“ May God, who has thus far conducted you,
“ continue to do so ; and may the British Navy,
“ the glory and support of our country, be restored
“ to its wonted splendour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the terror of the world.
“ But this can only be effected by a strict adherence
“ to our duty and obedience ; and let us pray that
“ the Almighty God may keep us in the right
“ way of thinking. God bless you all !”

The crew of the Venerable were so affected by this impressive address, that, on retiring, there was not a dry eye among them.

On the suppression of the mutiny, the Admiral resumed

resumed his station with his whole fleet off the coast of Holland, either to keep the Dutch squadron in the Texel, or to attack them if they should attempt to come out. It has since been discovered, that the object of the Batavian Republic, in conjunction with France, was to invade Ireland, where doubtless they would have been cordially welcomed by numerous bodies of the disaffected. Hence it will be seen, that the object of watching and checking the motions of the Dutch Admiral was of the utmost consequence.

After a long and very vigilant attention to the important trust reposed in him, the English Admiral was necessitated to repair to Yarmouth-roads to refit. The Batavian commander seized this favourable interval, and proceeded to sea. That active officer Captain Trollope, however, was upon the look-out, and having discovered the enemy, immediately dispatched a vessel with the glad intelligence to Admiral Duncan, who lost not an instant of time, but pushed out at once, and in the morning of the 11th of October, fell in with Capt. Trollope's squadron of observations, with the signal flying for an enemy to the leeward.

By a masterly manœuvre, the Admiral placed himself between them and the Texel, so as to prevent them from re-entering without risking an engagement. An action accordingly took place between Camperdown and Egmont, in nine fathoms water, and within five miles of the coast. The Admiral's own ship, in pursuance of a plan of naval evolution

evolution which he had long before determined to carry into effect, broke the enemy's line, and closely engaged the Dutch Admiral de Winter, who, after a most gallant defence, was obliged to strike. Eight ships were taken, two of which carried flags!

All circumstances considered—the time of the year, the force of the enemy, and the nearness to a dangerous shore—this action will be pronounced, by every judge of nautical affairs, to be one of the most brilliant that graces our annals.

The nation was fully sensible of the merit and consequence of this glorious victory: politicians beheld in it the annihilation of the designs of our combined enemies; naval men admired the address and skill which were displayed by the English commander in his approaches to the attack; and the people at large were transported with admiration, joy, and gratitude.

The honours which were instantly conferred upon the VENERABLE Admiral, received the approbation of men of all parties. October 21st, 1797, he was created Lord Viscount Duncan of Camperdown, and Baron Duncan of Lundie in the shire of Perth. On his being introduced into the House of Peers, on November the 8th, the Lord Chancellor communicated to him the thanks of the House, and in his speech said: “ He congratulated
 “ his Lordship upon his accession to the honour of
 “ a distinguished feat in that place, to which his
 “ very meritorious and *unparalleled* professional con-
 “ duct had deservedly raised him; that conduct
 “ (the

“ (the Chancellor added) was such as not only
“ merited the thanks of their Lordships’ House,
“ but the gratitude and applause of the Country
“ at large: it had been instrumental, under the auspices of Providence, in establishing the security
“ of his Majesty’s dominions, and frustrating the
“ ambitious and destructive designs of the enemy.”

In the last session of parliament, a pension of 2000*l.* *per annum* was granted his Lordship, for himself and the two next heirs of the peerage.

In person, Lord Duncan is of a manly, athletic form, six feet three inches high, erect and graceful, with a countenance that indicates great intelligence and benevolence.

His private character, is that of a most affectionate relative, a steady friend, and, what crowns the whole with a lustre superior to all other qualities or distinctions, he is a man of great and unaffected piety.

The latter virtue may excite, in some persons, a smile of contempt; but the liberal-minded will be pleased to read that Lord Duncan feels it an honour to be a christian.

He encourages religion by his own practice; and the public observance of it has been always kept up where he has held the command.

When the victory was decided, which has immortalized his name, his Lordship ordered the crew of his ship to be called together, and, at their head, upon his bended knees, in the presence of the Dutch Admiral, who was greatly affected with the scene,

scene, he solemnly and pathetically offered up praise to the GOD OF BATTLES!

Let it be added here, that his demeanour, when all eyes were upon him, in the cathedral of St. Paul's, on the day of general thanksgiving, was so humble, modest, and devout, as greatly to increase that admiration which his services had procured him.

In short, Lord Duncan is one more instance of the truth of the assertion, that piety and courage ought to be inseparably allied; and that the latter quality, without the former, loses its principal virtue.

XΛΣ.

DR. SAMUEL HORSLEY.

LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

[BY A FRIEND.]

OF all the right reverend members of the episcopal bench, no one has obtained a greater share of celebrity, than this prelate.

We are well aware, that a Bishop who has distinguished himself in political, as well as theological, controversy, will be regarded by different men with very opposite sentiments. Our aim, however, has no exclusive reference to either of these objects; and therefore we shall study to give a faithful delineation of the character before us, without the slightest attention to the spirit of party, whether that party be of a religious or political complexion.

Dr.

Dr. Samuel Horsley is the eldest of the three sons of the Rev. Mr. Horsley, formerly minister of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The grandfather of the Bishop was bred a dissenting divine, but he afterwards thought proper to conform to the establishment.

His Lordship was born about the year 1737, and received the ground-work of his education at Westminster school, whence he was removed to the University of Cambridge.

He applied himself, while there, chiefly to the study of mathematics; and not content with carefully reading the writings of the acutest of the moderns in that line, he went back to the profoundest of the ancients, and made himself thoroughly master of their most intricate reasonings.

Having taken his degree of Master of Arts, he accepted an invitation to go to Oxford, as private tutor to the present Earl of Aylesford. From that University he received a degree of Doctor of Laws, and 1769 printed at the Clarendon press; his edition of the Inclinations of Apollonius, a geometrical work of considerable value, though exceedingly abstruse. Previously to his time, mathematical learning had been in little repute at Oxford; but since that period it has grown into fashion there, so that this University can hardly be said to fall short of her sister, in that great branch of human knowledge.

Here our author first conceived the design of publishing a complete edition of the works of Sir Isaac

Newton;

Newton; to which end he began to collect the necessary materials.

On leaving the University, Dr. Horsley came to London, where he was elected fellow of the Royal Society, of which he was also chosen secretary in 1773. He continued to serve that office with the greatest credit to himself, as well as benefit to the scientific world, till the resignation of the late president, Sir John Pringle, when finding that the *connoisseurs* and *virtuosi* were gaining ground, he retired.

Soon after his settling in the metropolis, Dr. Horsley was noticed by that observing and excellent prelate, Bishop Lowth, who invited him to become his domestic chaplain. It is somewhat remarkable that, at this time, he was suspected of not being quite orthodox in his theological sentiments, and those who pretended to smell heresy in him, wondered at Bishop Lowth's taking him under his patronage. The only grounds for this suspicion, were his being a profound mathematician, and his close intimacy with Mr. Maty and other men of science, who were avowed Socinians.

In 1774, Bishop Lowth presented him to the rectories of St. Mary Newington and Albury, both in the county of Surrey; and in the course of the same year he married a Miss Botnam.

In 1776, he published proposals for a complete and elegant edition of the works of the immortal Newton, which appeared in 1779, in five volumes,

quarto, with an excellent dedication to the King, in Latin.

It was expected that a large memoir respecting the Prince of Philosophers would have been prefixed to this edition; and considerable disappointment was, of course, experienced by the public when nothing of this kind appeared. Certain it is, that the learned editor gave room for this expectation, and had actually made some progress in the life. He moreover had conversed with Dr. Johnson upon the subject, who advised him to write it in Latin, as best suited to the dignity of the character. This biographical *desideratum*, however, has not yet made its appearance; and we are apprehensive that it never will.

In 1778, when the controversy was on foot between Drs. Priestley, Price, and others, respecting materialism and philosophical necessity, Dr. Horsley preached a sermon, on Good Friday, at St. Paul's Cathedral, which he afterwards published. In this ingenious discourse he reconciles, with much force of argument, the doctrine of divine providence with the free agency of man, and combats the necessarian hypothesis with great, and, in the opinion of his friends, complete success.

About this time he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Albans, by Bishop Lowth, who, in 1782, presented him to the valuable living of South Weald, in Essex.

In 1783, Dr. Priestley published his celebrated
work,

work, the "History of the Corruptions of Christianity." It need hardly be mentioned, that the principal design of this was to overthrow the catholic doctrine respecting Christ's divinity.

Great was the triumph manifested by the unitarian party on the publication of so elaborate an history. The outcry made by them on the occasion, naturally roused the attention of those who adhered to the Orthodox confession, and Dr. Horsley seized this opportunity of shewing not only the soundness of his faith, but his abilities for the most intricate branches of theological controversy.

In the summer of this year, he delivered to the clergy of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans a charge, in which he expressly controverted the Socinian position—that the doctrine of the Trinity was not maintained by the Christian church in the first three centuries; and he not only gave a flat contradiction to Dr. Priestley's assertion on this point, but charged him with having taken, without acknowledgment, the whole of his argument from Zwicker, and other eminent socinians of the last century.

This discourse, at the request of his reverend auditory, was printed, with an appendix, explaining and confirming the positions which it contained.

Dr. Priestley, whose pen is that of a ready writer, was not to be daunted at meeting with so formidable an antagonist; on the contrary, he rushed at once into the battle, with the impetuosity of a man who seemed to place all his reputation, as a combatant, upon the event of this contest. He, of course, in-

stantly replied to the Archdeacon, in a series of letters, which contained all his former assertions, expressed in a more confident tone than before. Dr. Horsley was aware of the advantage which the precipitancy of his opponent had given, and, therefore, in his answer, which was also in the epistolary form, he noticed the frequent slips in Greek quotation, and reference, which the Doctor had made ; and, with great adroitness, left it to the reader to judge, whether so hasty and incautious an historian was to be depended upon in a matter of such importance.

But he did not merely expose the Doctor's mistakes. He followed up the attack by numerous proofs in behalf of the common belief, drawn from the early fathers of the church, and the purest ecclesiastical historians. The display of reading, and acute research, in these letters, is wonderful. The style also is admirable ; and though, at times, it assumes a lofty manner, yet the reader of taste finds himself charmed with the elegance of the language, and the closeness of the reasoning.

Dr. Priestley continued the combat, by another series of letters ; to which the Archdeacon again replied. The controversy here closed, on the part of the latter ; who signified, that it was an endless task to contend upon an exhausted topic, with one who was never disposed to cease disputing till he had obtained the last word. In 1789, Dr. Horsley collected these tracts, and printed them in one volume,

volume, octavo, with some additions, particularly a Sermon on the Incarnation, preached at Newington, on Christmas-day, 1785, and which, having a material relation to the controversy in question, he thought proper to insert in this collection.

While this dispute was going on, our learned divine was engaged in another, which made nearly as much noise as the first, at least in the scientific world. When Sir Joseph Banks came in as President of the Royal Society, on the resignation of Sir John Pringle, the mathematical and philosophical members of the Newtonian school were disgusted at the extraordinary preference which was shewn to subjects, as they conceived, of an inferior nature, to those which ought, in their opinion, to engage the first learned society in the world. It has been said, that cabals were formed by those members of the old stamp against the president and his friends; but of this no proof was ever brought forward.

In 1784, the latter ventured upon a step, which could not fail to fan the smothering flame into a blaze. The council thought proper to dismiss the learned Doctor Hutton from the office of Latin secretary for foreign correspondence, upon the very frivolous pretence, that it was improper such a post should be filled by a person who did not reside in the metropolis. The scientific members took fire at this treatment of one of the ablest and most respectable of their body. Accordingly, in several meetings of the society, attempts were

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made

made to lessen the influence of their president *, and to reinstate Dr. Hutton in his place, but without success. In this contest between philosophy and the *virtuosi*, Dr. Horsley made the most conspicuous figure. Finding, however, that his labours, and those of his learned associates, were in vain, he forsook (to express it in his own forcible language) “that temple, where philosophy once reigned, and where NEWTON presided as her officiating minister.”

In 1786, Dr. Horsley obtained, without either solicitation, or even expectancy, a prebend in the cathedral church of Gloucester. His friend, on this occasion, was Lord Thurlow, then Chancellor; who, without being personally known to Dr. H. or receiving any application on his behalf, resisted every request that was made for this valuable preferment, and bestowed it upon the man whom he justly considered as having merited it the most of any divine in this age.

During the year following, the Doctor preached an ordination sermon, in the cathedral of Gloucester, in which he maintained, with great strength, this position—that, on the cessation of miraculous gifts, human learning is substituted by divine appointment, as an essential qualification for the Christian ministry. At the command of the venerable prelate, before whom it was delivered

* Sir Joseph was accused, in an able pamphlet of that day, of taking very improper means to obtain the admission or rejection of candidates.

(Dr. Samuel Halifax), this ingenious discourse was, soon afterwards, printed; and excited considerable notice, and some controversy.

Next year, Dr. Horsley was elevated to the episcopal bench, on the translation of Dr. Smallwell from the see of St. David to that of Oxford. Lord Thurlow, on this occasion, was again his steady and unsolicited patron; and made it a point to bring in his friend, in opposition to candidates who were backed by all the force of ministerial influence.

Soon after his admission to the House of Lords, Dr. Horsley had an opportunity of displaying his eloquence and learning, which he did to great advantage, on Earl Stanhope's motion for a revision and reform of the canons of the church. His speech, on this occasion, afforded uncommon pleasure to the House; and, what was rather remarkable, drew from the noble Earl, just mentioned, a very liberal encomium.

On the great struggle made by the protestant dissenters, in 1790, to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Test acts, a pamphlet appeared, entitled, "A Review of the Case of the Protestant Dissenters," which was written with such boldness and elegance on the High Church side, that, though anonymous, all parties concurred in attributing it to the Bishop of St. David's; nor were they wrong in their conjecture.

The year following, he made a conspicuous figure, in consequence of his primary charge to the

clergy of his diocese; in this he maintained the old-fashioned doctrine of *justification by faith alone*, and pressed home upon his hearers, that the too common practice of preaching mere *morality* was destructive of vital religion.

This charge, of a complexion so very different from what had been usually delivered in cathedral churches, attracted considerable notice. Those who were attached to the Calvinistic principles, or as they are commonly called, Evangelical Christians, were enraptured with the sentiments conveyed in this discourse. Others, on the contrary, conceived that the Bishop had mistaken the doctrine of the gospel, on the subject of justification; while the Unitarians were extremely irritated at the harsh and perhaps illiberal terms in which his lordship had mentioned their sect and creed, in his charge. Several replies were accordingly published to it; but the learned prelate seemed to consider himself superior to the adversaries who wished to provoke him again into controversy.

His conduct in the see of St. David's was highly praiseworthy. Of all the bishoprics, no one exhibited more poverty, or more ignorance, on the part of the clergy, than this. Many of the curacies, when his lordship entered upon the government of this extensive diocese, did not exceed ten pounds *per annum*, and some of the churches were actually served for five! It may easily be concluded what sort of divines a great part of these poor ministers were, under such circumstances. What

was

was still worse, the multitude of candidates for orders increased yearly, so that Wales poured her superfluous clergy into England, to the disgrace of the cloth, and the real injury of such as were regularly bred. The writer of this has no inclination to sport at the expence of any body of men; but he could entertain the reader with many whimsical anecdotes respecting the learning and ingenuity of the Welch clergy. A reform was therefore necessary, but it required a strong and persevering mind to accomplish it.

Our indefatigable prelate was not to be daunted by any obstacles. He obtained, with the greatest possible dispatch, an accurate and minute state of his diocese. He then gave notice to the beneficed clergy, who did not reside, that they would be compelled to residence, or to allow their curates a more liberal salary. By these means, he remedied that shameful abuse, of one man's serving several churches on the same day; directing that a curate should serve two only, and those within a moderate distance from each other.

Having regulated the condition of the clergy, he proceeded to a stricter course, with respect to candidates for holy orders, admitting none without personally examining them himself, and looking very narrowly into the titles which they produced.

With all this vigilance, his lordship acted to them as a tender father, encouraging them to visit him during his stay in the country, which was usually for several months in the year, assisting them

them with advice, and administering to their temporal necessities with a liberal and paternal hand.

In his progress through the diocese, he frequently preached in the parish churches, especially on the days when the sacrament was administered, and bestowed considerable largesses upon the poor.

He kept a most hospitable table, at his episcopal palace, at Aberguilly, near Caermarthen, to which the neighbouring gentry and clergy were always welcome. In short, he was a blessing to his people; and they followed him with grateful hearts, and parted from him with infinite reluctance. This is not an ideal picture: it is a true, but imperfect sketch of actual life; and such as the feeble painter had opportunities of seeing more than once.

On January 30th, 1793, the Bishop of St. David's was appointed to preach before the House of Lords; and as the recent execution of the King of France was the general topic of conversation and pity, the Abbey was greatly crowded. That discourse is in print; and whatever may be thought of the notions on government, which distinguish it, there can be but one opinion concerning its very beautiful and pathetic peroration. When published, the Bishop appended to his sermon a long vindication of the character of Calvin, from the charge of being a friend to rebellion and regicide.

The following year, he was translated, on the death of Bishop Thomas, from St. David's to Rochester, and to the deanery of Westminster, on which occasion

occasion he resigned all his other church preferences.

When he entered upon his office, as Dean of Westminster, he found many things in the condition of that church, which stood in great need of reformation; and, with his usual activity, he instantly set about the work. In particular, the salaries of the minor-canon, and officers, were extremely low, and by no means proportionate. With a most commendable spirit of liberality, therefore, he obtained an instant advance, and then began to regulate the conduct and duty of the persons whom he had so materially assisted. Had he, on the contrary, set about a more exact discipline, without attending to the necessities of these men, they would, perhaps, have justly considered him as a severe task-master, and murmured at his regulations. By this mode of conduct he gained their esteem and gratitude; and it may safely be said, that no man ever filled that station with such popularity as the present dean.

In the career of politics, his popularity, perhaps, is not quite so great. The zeal which he displays in the agitation of public measures, and the promptness with which he expresses his sentiments on the side of the established order of things, civil and religious, have procured him many enemies. Without endeavouring to extenuate any thing reprehensible in his conduct, let us be permitted to hope, that his language has been often greatly misrepresented, and made by
his

his adversaries to express a meaning which the right reverend prelate holds in abhorrence. He has been too apt to express his sentiments in abstract propositions, which may be made, by artful men, to signify what never entered into his lordship's mind. Were we, generously, to put the best construction upon his observations, and which certainly ought to be done, unless his own explanation proved decisive; in all probability, we should find here less occasion for censure, and more for commendation.

But to leave his political reputation to its fate.— In 1796, he printed, without his name, a most profound and elegant dissertation on “the Latin and Greek Prosodies,” dedicated to Lord Thurlow. In this learned performance he shews an uncommon depth of penetration into, and acquaintance with, the nature and construction of the ancient languages; and approves himself a most powerful, though, perhaps, not an invincible advocate for the use of the Greek accents.

We understand that this zealous and active prelate is now deeply engaged in a work upon the prophecies of the Old and New Testament; and from his known powers, as a profound thinker and calculator, there can be no doubt entertained of the value of his performance, should he, as is to be hoped, favour the world with the fruits of his research.

Besides the works already mentioned, Bishop Horsley is the author of some ingenious papers on
mathematical

mathematical subjects, various sermons on public occasions, and several episcopal charges.

He has been twice married, and has one son, who is at present at Christ-church college, Oxford.

JUDGE BULLER.

SIR FRANCIS BULLER is the son of the late John Buller, Esq. of Morval, in the county of Cornwall. The extensive parliamentary interest of his family is well known; this, joined to his own abilities, could not fail to raise him, early in life, to an eminent rank in his profession.

After being educated at Winchester school, he was called to the bar in the year 1763, and brought into parliament soon after. This, with a lawyer, is generally a prelude to a silk gown, but that was not immediately obtained. His professional *debut* did not promise much eminence, for he commenced his career as a special pleader, having studied the practical part of this dull but necessary branch of legal science under the present Judge Ashhurst, and, like his precursor, he was always ranked among the most eminent in that particular line. This character, accordingly, soon brought him into great repute as a common-law draughtsman; and Erskine, after having laid by his sword, first brandished a pen at his desk.

His

His practice at the bar was, at the same time, very considerable.

In 1772, Mr. Buller published "*An Introduction to the Law of Nisi Prius*," which is a *noli me tangere* of its kind, and will long continue to enjoy a high degree of estimation. As an orator, in every thing that did not require an appeal to the passions, he shewed himself a master: then only he failed. Few judges deliver themselves with more propriety than him; his language being dignified, and his manner, perhaps, somewhat too authoritative.

The *borough* interest of his family, added to a matrimonial alliance with that of the late Earl Bathurst, at length procured him a silk gown, the place of a Welch judge, and even elevated him to the coif, while yet a very young man. He was accordingly called to the degree of sergeant at law, on being appointed one of the justices of the court of King's Bench.

In this capacity his abilities had full play, as he possesses great quickness of perception, readily foresees the consequences of facts, and anticipates the drift of an argument at the first glance; but, like the great lawyer * whom he has been ambitious of copying, he is sometimes too hasty in drawing his conclusions.

As soon as he assumed the ermine, he attracted the particular attention of Lord Mansfield, and although the youngest judge that was ever pro-

* Lord Mansfield.

moted to the bench, yet his opinion had always more influence with the Chief Justice than that of any of his colleagues.

This judge has, at times, been accused of somewhat bordering on petulance of disposition, which has led him into rather unpleasant altercations. An instance of this occurred at the famous trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, when, after pushing his opposition to his quondam pupil, Mr. Erskine, to threats and defiance, he at length suffered him to set his authority at nought, and even allowed him to proceed in the interrogatories the judge had so strenuously opposed.

When Lord Mansfield was about to retire, he exerted the remains of his once-powerful interest to procure the nomination of Buller, and is even said to have retained his post, on this very account, after he had been disabled, by his infirmities, from performing its duties.

Some time since, Sir Francis exhibited an inclination to retire from the King's Bench, and proposed an exchange for a seat in the Common Pleas, but difficulties then occurred, which deferred the accomplishment of his desire. He was then second in the King's Bench, and had he removed during the life of Judge Gould, he must have sat as third only in the Common Pleas; however, on the death of that truly venerable and honest man, his wishes were fully gratified.

He was lately placed at the head of the Special Commission for trying the state prisoners at Maidstone,

stone, and he must be allowed by all candid men to have conducted himself with great moderation. A circumstance happened on that occasion which gave the judge an opportunity of exhibiting his impartiality; we mean the discovery of the letter written by the Rev. Mr. Young, son of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; of which we shall not say more, as he is now under prosecution by the Attorney-general.

The compliments paid by Sir F. to Mr. Fox, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Suffolk, and other noblemen and gentlemen in Opposition, have drawn down upon his head the abuse of some of the Ministerial papers; and by a strange fatality, the great lawyer, formerly suspected of leaning towards despotism, is considered by them as at present too little attached to prerogative.

Sir Francis resides at his country-seat in a manner worthy the imitation of his brethren of the long robe. Unbending from the restraint of the coif, he lives without ostentation; but his table is a hospitable one, and he pays every attention to his guests. Gay, facetious, liberal in his conversation and opinions, he despises the petty prejudices of the day, and proves that he has considered mankind, rather in the character of a philosopher than a lawyer.

Much to his honour he has improved great portions of the waste land in his neighbourhood, and when these are brought into a state of cultivation, he

he builds cottages, and portions them out into little farms, at easy rents.

Thus, while he is benefiting the present age, he is also creating a noble fortune for his posterity!

JOHN WOLCOTT, M.D.

THIS gentleman, better known by his poetical appellation of *Peter Pindar*, is a native of Dodbrook, near Kingsbridge, in that part of Devonshire which has been called the Garden of England. He was educated, we believe, at Kingsbridge, near which he was born. The schoolmaster of that town, an exceeding good scholar, and a man of most amiable manners, was a quaker.

The uncle of our bard being a single man, and established at Fowey, in Cornwall, as Surgeon and Apothecary, took his nephew, when young, with a view to his succeeding him in business. Here he acquired a tolerable share of medical knowledge; and was in great esteem with his kinsman, and the neighbourhood. At his leisure hours he cultivated his mind by the perusal of the best modern writers; and improved himself considerably in the art of drawing, to which he shewed an early propensity.

On the appointment of Sir William Trelawney to be Governor of Jamaica, about the year 1769,

Mr. Wolcott felt a strong inclination to accompany him thither, especially as that gentleman was a distant relation of his own, and a great friend to the family. He, accordingly, pressed his uncle, not only to give his consent to the project, but also to solicit the favour from Sir William.

The old gentleman was at first extremely concerned at this turn in his nephew's mind, which was a complete overthrow of his favourite scheme respecting him, and also deprived himself of a most useful assistant. Remonstrances, however, were vain; and, therefore, with the greatest good nature, he waited upon the Governor, and obtained his request that the young adventurer, who had now qualified himself for the medical walk, and received the degree of M.D. should make one in his suite.

In the course of the voyage the ship touched at Madeira, where Peter, enchanted with the beauties which nature so luxuriantly exhibits in that island, wrote some exquisite sonnets. On his arrival at Jamaica, he practised as a physician, and was actually nominated Physician-general to the island. A circumstance, however, occurred that diverted him, for some time, from his medical career, and threw him into the arms of a profession, for which few men were ever less qualified.

The incumbent of a living in Jamaica happened to pay the last tribute to nature not long after the Doctor settled there. Whether his practice had not been sufficiently lucrative, or what other motive

tive might have actuated him, we know not, but certain it is, he looked upon the vacant rectory with a wishful eye. The physician of the body, accordingly, commenced physician of the soul, and actually officiated for a considerable time in this capacity, reading the prayers of the church of England, and preaching occasionally *.

On his return, he repaired to the place of his former residence, and after living there some time, removed to Truro, where he practised during several years as a physician, with great credit and success. His uncle then died, and left him nearly two thousand pounds.

The doctor's satirical vein shewed itself on various occasions in Cornwall; particularly in some humorous jokes, which he played off upon the late Mr. Rosewarne, of Truro, and other gentlemen of that neighbourhood. He was also engaged in some troublesome and expensive lawsuits; one of which was with the corporation of Truro, relative to their right of putting upon him a parish apprentice. In consequence of these disputes, he found that part of the world disagreeable, and therefore resolved to

* In order to remove every suspicion of *intrusion*, it is but just here to remark, that Dr. W. was regularly ordained by the Bishop of London. On the death of his Excellency Sir Wm. Trelawney, he returned to England along with Lady Trelawney, in his majesty's frigate the *Leostoffe*, Captain Carterett, and having put into Teneriffe, the Doctor resided some time with the Governor, in consequence of which, that island became the scene of several of his sonnets.

quit it for a sphere more congenial to his talents and disposition.

During his residence in this county, the Doctor had an opportunity of bringing forward to the world an eminent natural genius, who otherwise might have been buried in total oblivion, or, at the most, have become a sign-painter in his native country. The person we allude to is JOHN OPIE, whose rude drawings in common chalk, especially likenesses, our Doctor viewed with some curiosity and admiration in his rides through the village of St. Anne, where Opie was a parish apprentice to one Wheeler, a house carpenter.

These drawings were so superior to what could be expected in such a place, and from such a person, that the physician was induced to become his instructor and his patron. He accordingly furnished him with materials, and gave him lessons, by which he profited in a manner that surprised and delighted the benevolent tutor. Having made a rapid progress, Opie went to Exeter, where he acquired some knowledge of oil painting. From that city he removed to London, and under Sir Joshua Reynolds became one of the most eminent artists of the age.

Of the Doctor's poetical productions while he was engaged in the practice of physic, we have seen only a single specimen, but that is an excellent one, and we trust our readers will be pleased with us for inserting it in this place.

In the year 1776, when Mr. Polwhele, well
known

noun by his various publications, was at Truro-school, he had given to him for an evening exercise, to be translated into English, the following beautiful Latin epigram on sleep :

Somne levis, quamquem certissima mortis imago,
Confortem cupio te, tamen esse tori ;
Alma quies, optata veni ; nam, sic, sine vitâ
Vivere, quam suave est ; sic, sine morte, mori.

Of this epigram the doctor was requested to give a translation, which he produced in a few minutes, as follows :

Come, gentle sleep, attend thy vot'ry's prayer,
And tho' death's image, to my couch repair ;
How sweet, thus lifeless, yet with life to lie,
Thus, without dying, O how sweet to die !

Our author's first literary production was an "*Epistle to the Reviewers*," 4to. 1782, a truly laughable piece of satire, and certainly discharged against fair game. His next performance was "*Lyric Odes to the Royal Academicians*," 1785, in which is exhibited a happy mixture of wit, taste, and elegance, but at the same time it must be allowed, that some of the criticisms, particularly those respecting the paintings of Mr. West, are not altogether candid.

In the year following, he published another set of odes to the members of the Royal Academy, bearing the same characteristics. About the same time he produced a performance of more originality and boldness. This was the *Loufiad*, a mock heroic poem, abounding in wit, humour, and strength.

The foundation on which our Satirist erected this lively piece, was as follows :—His Majesty one evening at supper observed a human hair upon his plate, among some green peas. This offensive object occasioned a decree to be issued forth, that all the cooks, scullions, &c. in the royal kitchen, should have their heads shaved. Great murmurings were excited by this mandate ; but the law, like that of the Medes and Persians, was irrevocable.

On this incident, Peter formed his exquisite production ; only changing the hair *, by virtue of the *licentia poetica*, to a living animal.

His next production was an epistle to JAMES BOSWELL, Esq. the self-sufficient attendant upon Dr. Johnson in his tour to the Hebrides. This was followed by “BOZZI and PROZZI,” in which the folly of tittle tattle biographers is exposed in the happiest manner.

The greatest success now attended our author's publications. Never did any satirist display such various excellence. Those who disapproved of his sentiments, and were offended at his freedom and want of respect for authority, could not read his poems with unmoved muscles. To give a catalogue of his numerous writings would be needless. There can be no occasion to specify at length what is universally known, and as universally admired. Though our author has shone most conspicuously as a satirist, (and here, indeed, his splendour has been of an

* We are assured, from undoubted authority, that it was, literally, a *louse* !

extraordinary brilliancy), yet the reader of his sonnets will sometimes be disposed to regret his having devoted so much of his time and genius to temporary and personal subjects.

The admirers of poetical elegance, may laugh at our bard's pleasant tales, and whimsical descriptions; but they will feel a more exquisite sensation on perusing the tender and sentimental effusions of his pen.

The Doctor, we understand, lately superintended a new edition of Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, to which he made some additions, particularly the character of the famous landscape painter, Richard Wilson. Before we conclude, it may not be amiss to remark that, in his conversation, our Satirist does not exhibit either that facetiousness or acerbity, so eminently displayed in his poetical compositions.

Neither ought we to finish this article without observing, that Messrs Robinsons, Golding, and Walker, agreed, in 1795, to pay Dr. W. an annuity of 250*l.* per annum, for the copy-right of his works. Unfortunately, owing to some obscurity in drawing up the agreement, it has been contended by one party, that it implies only those of the Poet *already* published, while the others wish to include all that may hereafter be given to the world, by the facetious Peter.

We are sorry to add, that an action at common law, has been succeeded by a chancery suit; and without entering into the merits of a question, on

which some *future* Chancellor may decide, in the course of the *nineteenth century*, we most cordially recommend an amicable adjustment, and immediate compromise to all parties. What a pity, that the rapacious harpies of the law should be permitted to swallow up the patrimony of the Muses !

Our poet, we believe, once more practises as a physician. Lately recovered from an *asthma*, he has acquired an intimate acquaintance with the theory of that disease, and is himself a living instance, that, with skilful management, it is not fatal, even in its last and worst stages. He has also minutely investigated the structure of that delicate organ, the human ear.

This is a species of knowledge neither to be obtained on the summit of Parnassus, nor drawn from the fountain Hippocrene ; but there is a certain universality in genius, which, indeed, constitutes one of its chief characteristics.

W.

JOHN MOORE, D.D.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

Primate of all England.

SOME of the ablest and best prelates of whom the Church of England has to boast, originally sprung from very humble situations in society. The catalogue of her primates, in particular, almost entirely consists of persons of lowly extraction. Cranmer, Parker, Grindal, and Whitgift, the great pillars

pillars of the church establishment, after the separation from the papal yoke, were all of a mean descent, if, as in the vulgar phraseology of common life, poverty and meanness be synonymous.

Archbishop Abbot was educated and maintained by public charity.

Laud's father was a weaver ; so was Tillotson's ; and neither of them appears to have been in circumstances to provide for his son.

Potter was a servitor in his college ; and both Herring and Secker were more indebted to good fortune, than to family connexions, for their elevation to the episcopal bench.

Nor has this been the case only with the Church of England. The most eminent of the Roman pontiffs sprung from obscurity ; and the poor people in Italy, have been accustomed to excite in their children an application to study, by relating to them the story of Pope Sixtus the Fifth. That great man was the son of a cottager ; and on his elevation to the *tiara*, he used to say in contempt of the pasquinades that were made upon his birth, that he was (*domus natus illustri* *) “ born of an illustrious house, “ for the sun-beams passing through the broken “ walls and ragged roof, *illustrated* every corner of “ the paternal hut !”

Dr. Moore, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, is a native of Gloucester, where his father was a butcher, in such low circumstances, that he

* This is a play upon words, and unfortunately loses much of its point by translation.

could not afford the expence necessary to give his son that liberal education which he both desired and deserved. He was, therefore, brought up at the free-school of his native city; and on account of his docility of behaviour, and promising talents, some friends procured for him a humble situation in Pembroke college, Oxford, whence he afterwards removed to Christ-church.

While at college, he applied himself to his studies with considerable assiduity, and acquired great respect by his modest demeanour, the regularity of his conduct, and his classical attainments.

He had, however, with all these qualifications, no higher prospect before him than that of a country curacy, till one of those lucky circumstances happened, which sometimes occur in the great game of human life, and conduct the obscurest individual to the most unlikely of all situations.

The late Duke of Marlborough affected to love the study of mathematics; and, in consequence of that propensity, Mr. Blifs, Savilian professor of geometry, and astronomer-royal, was frequently at Blenheim. In one of his visits there, the Duke asked the Professor to recommend him a young man, qualified to act as private tutor to the Marquis of Blandford. Blifs, whose ideas never went beyond the present circumstance, had no thoughts of his own son, but was puzzling his brains to pitch upon some person that might answer the Duke's purpose. At the time he was thus ruminating,

nating, young Moore happened to be strolling in the Park, and as he was of the same college with the Professor, who respected his character, he mentioned him to his Grace, as one well qualified to undertake the charge.

In consequence of this recommendation, Mr. Moore was sent for, and very readily accepted the offer which was made him. But the pride of the Duchess would not permit her to allow her son's instructor to dine in her presence; and therefore Mr. Moore was obliged to put up with a place at the second table. The mortification arising from this circumstance, perhaps, was not then very great; but it is remarkable, that this haughty dame, when she became a widow, actually courted the very same tutor, to receive her hand!

Few young men in Mr. Moore's circumstances would have scrupled how to act on such an occasion. His prudence, however, made him foresee, that no real good could well result to him from an acceptance of the proposal; and he accordingly declined it. This generous conduct endearing him to his pupil and the whole family, every exertion was made to promote his advancement in the church.

As a first step, the young Duke settled an annuity of 400*l.* upon Dr. Moore, and obtained for him, in 1769, a golden prebend, in the cathedral of Durham, to which a valuable living was annexed. In 1771, his Grace personally solicited for him, of the King, the deanery of Canterbury, and

and obtained it; in 1775, he was made Bishop of Bangor.

On the death of Dr. Frederick Cornwallis, in 1783, the see of Canterbury was offered to the two greatest prelates that then ornamented the English church, Lowth and Hurd. The former declined the translation, from his great age, and the latter from his attachment to his own diocese of Worcester. It is reported, but upon what ground we will not venture to say, that his Majesty, on this, desired each of those great men to recommend one of the bishops to him, as the fittest in their judgment to fill the metropolitan chair; and that they both, without having any knowledge of each other's opinion, mentioned Dr. Moore.

To have suppressed this anecdote in this place, would have been wrong, because the story has been very generally reported, and it *may* be true. As for our part, we are inclined to believe that the real fact is otherwise, and that his advancement to the primacy was the effect of the same patronage which first raised him in the church. Most undoubtedly he had not evinced any of those strong powers, which could have produced so remarkable a predilection in his favour in the minds of his learned brethren.

Let the matter be as it may, Dr. Moore obtained the *ne plus ultra* of ecclesiastical dignity; and his conduct has been so decorous as to reflect great honour upon himself and his patrons. The see of
Canterbury

Canterbury requires a very temperate person; and his grace has exactly steered that course which his illustrious predecessors, Tillotson and Secker, pursued, with credit to themselves, and benefit to the church.

He has wisely avoided taking any active part in political disputes; neither has he adopted any steps to inflame the minds of dissenters, on the one hand, nor to alarm the friends of orthodoxy, on the other.

When any measure has been agitated before the House of Peers, in which the interests of the church were concerned, his grace has generally been an able, but moderate speaker. During his primacy, the extension of toleration, and episcopacy, have taken place; for the Catholics have been greatly relieved in England, and bishops have been appointed in America. Both these circumstances had his grace's countenance and support. He has, moreover, been the constant friend of merit; and numerous acts of generous patronage might be recorded in his praise.

Men of obscure origin too frequently affect to forget the lowly stock whence they sprung. An elevation for which they were no way prepared by family connexions, generally turns their heads dizzy with false pride; and then a view of their humble descent becomes offensive. Former friendships and situations are consequently wiped out of their remembrance, and poor relations are carefully shunned, or cast into shade, to subsist on a
pittance

pittance privately bestowed, that they may not tarnish the dignity of the great personage to whom they happen to be allied. He who rises superior to this common failing, is a true philosopher, and worthy of our esteem.

Dr. Moore no sooner began to taste the sweets of prosperity, than he eagerly hastened to communicate a portion of them to his family; and as he advanced in preferment, his attention to it, and particularly his father, who had failed in business, was proportionably encreased. This is an eulogy far more honourable than that derived from the most illustrious talents, or the most splendid actions.

The Archbishop has only printed two sermons; the one preached on the 30th of January, 1777, before the Lords, and the other on the fast-day, in 1781.

His grace married a sister of Lord Auckland, by whom he has several children.

©.

ARTHUR MURPHY, ESQ.

THAT constellation, which once illuminated the literary hemisphere with such splendor, and in which JOHNSON shone with the most distinguished lustre, has, for some time, been reduced to a very small number of luminaries.

The veteran who now calls for our consideration, long moved in this illustrious circle with considerable

able reputation, and enjoyed a degree of applause, on account of his productions, which has been the lot of but few. He has, however, seen the greatest ornaments of literature cut off, and hardly any others worthy notice, arising in their place. He has beheld the new philosophy spreading its glare wide around, and obtaining admiration; and he has lived to witness a new theatrical taste, usurping the province of the genuine drama, and threatening complete destruction to one of the finest branches of poesy.

He has also existed long enough to witness a revolution, not only in matters of a political nature, but in manners, sentiment, and amusements. Surely such a man, still retaining all his faculties in their pristine vigour, cannot contemplate the surrounding scene, in which he is nearly isolated, without feeling all his sensibilities wounded! But let us wave reflection, and proceed to narrative.

Mr. MURPHY, the son of a merchant of Dublin, was born near Elphin, Dec. 27, 1730. He came to England, while a child, and was sent soon after to the Jesuit's College at St. Omer's, in which learned seminary he obtained a very extensive knowledge of the Latin language.

His uncle, Mr. Jeffery French, designing him for trade, he was placed first with a merchant in Cork, and then with a banker in Lombard-street. But the Muses soon attracted him from the bill-book and ledger; and instead of applying himself to commercial studies, all his attention was devoted
to

to the writings of the most elegant authors, ancient and modern.

The compting-house was, of course, soon entirely abandoned; and, with a very scanty pittance of this world's store, he entered himself, in 1750, a member of the Society of Gray's Inn, and became an adventurer in literature, partly from necessity, and partly from choice.

At first, indeed, he formed the design of adopting the stage as a profession, but after two or three essays, one of which was in the character of Othello, he found himself better qualified to *write* plays than to *act* them.

His first literary undertaking that we know of was a periodical work called "The Gray's Inn Journal," which he commenced in 1752, and continued for two years *. This work was not without merit, or even celebrity, and became the means of introducing the author to the acquaintance of Dr. Samuel Johnson: as the anecdote is curious, it may be worth relating in this place.

Mr. Murphy was on a visit at the country-house of Foote, when a paper was wanted for his journal. Being ill-disposed for composition, the English Aristophanes produced a new French miscellany, in which there was an Eastern apologue that appeared to be remarkably ingenious. This pleased our author so well, that he translated it at once, and sent it to his printer. On his return to town,

* We are assured that he only received a guinea and a half a week for his work.

he found that this tale had been taken by the French writer from Johnson's *Rambler* without acknowledgment. Hurt at this unintentional plagiarism, Murphy waited upon Johnson, and made his apology. The moralist was easily pacified; and an acquaintance commenced, which continued till Johnson's death.

At the beginning of the present reign, Murphy enlisted as a party-writer, in vindication of Lord Bute's administration; and though his labours were but feeble, in comparison with the keen attacks of Opposition, he was handsomely rewarded by those whose cause he espoused.

At this time he was in habits of intimacy with Mr. Wilkes; and though they were engaged in a fierce paper war, the former in the *Auditor*, and the latter in the *North Britain*, yet they knew not, for some time, that they were fighting with each other. On the discovery of the secret, Wilkes's partizans entered into a resolution to oppose any new piece which Mr. Murphy might bring forward on the stage. Accordingly, when our author's farce of "What we must all come to," was performed, a violent party-spirit manifested itself; and the piece, though free from any political allusions, was *damned*! Some years afterwards it was again produced, under the title of "Three Weeks after Marriage," when it received unmixed applause, and has continued a favourite entertainment ever since.

Murphy expostulated with Wilkes on the conduct

duct of his friends, and the patriot not only disavowed any share in their proceedings, but promised, that should any future occasion offer, he would himself come forward with his party in the offended bard's support.

As a political writer, Mr. Murphy never rose to any distinguished eminence, otherwise we suppose he would have obtained either preferment or a pension. The only thing with which he has been favoured, as far as we know, is the post of Commissioner of Bankrupts, which he held till the appointment of Lord Thurlow to the great seal; and when the present Chancellor came into office, he replaced his old friend upon the list.

Though regularly called to the bar by the society of Lincoln's Inn, after a long struggle, he never obtained any extensive practice, nor any share of credit on account of legal abilities. He, however, went the Norfolk circuit for a considerable time.

As a writer, he has shone most in dramatic poetry; and it may be said of him, what few who have written for the stage can boast, that he has been equally successful in farce, comedy, and tragedy. All his pieces evince great knowledge of the world, and a minute acquaintance with the human character, combined with that liveliness of fancy which is essentially necessary to produce the sensations of mirth.

In his tragedies, one remarks a happy delineation of character, joined to a due mixture of the pathetic and heroic, clothed with language at once appropriate,

propriate, easy, and elegant. So great has been the success of his plays, that though the receipts of the *former* Drury-lane theatre never amounted to three hundred pounds a night, he gained eight hundred pounds by his "Grecian Daughter;" and very near the same sum by "His Way to keep Him."

Mr. Murphy's intimacy with the first geniuses of the age tended greatly to improve his taste, and, consequently, to render his productions elegant. Such an association is of wonderful benefit to a rising and emulous writer. In the company of a Johnson and a Burke, a man possessed of any portion of genius could not fail to improve his mind. To have been in habits of friendship with these persons, required no small portion of literary, and moral merit.

Mr. Murphy had the credit of introducing Johnson to the acquaintance of Mr. Thrale. He was also a member of the club which the former instituted in Essex-street.

In 1762, he wrote an Essay on the Life and Genius of Henry Fielding, prefixed to the complete edition of that writer's works, for which he received a considerable sum. On this occasion he behaved in a manner which few biographers will, perhaps, be disposed to imitate. A considerable quantity of letters and anecdotes were put into his hands, by Sir John Fielding, and others, to elucidate the memoir. On examining these communications, he found that many of them were well adapted to

amuse the public, but at the same time tended to tarnish the memory of the deceased. He, therefore, suppressed them; and gave to his production the qualified title of an essay. He followed a similar line of conduct with respect to the life of his friend Johnson, which was published in 1791, and for which he was handsomely rewarded.

About the same time appeared his translation of Tacitus, in four quarto volumes. In this work he had been engaged for many years; and there is a circumstance respecting it which does Mr. Murphy infinite honour. Not long before the publication, a nobleman of high rank and consequence in the political world signified to the translator his wish to have it dedicated to him. Murphy, however, had previously determined to inscribe his labours to the man whom he most esteemed, the immortal BURKE, and he accordingly made a noble sacrifice of interest, to friendship!

His last literary production was a tragedy never performed, entitled, "Arminius."

Mr. Murphy's classical knowledge and taste appear to great advantage in his Latin poems, particularly in a version of Gray's Elegy; and we remember to have seen an elegant translation of Addison's Letter from Italy, written by him, but never printed.

Mr. Murphy usually resides at Hammer-smith. He is a very entertaining companion, abounding in anecdotes, of which he is engagingly communicative

cative in company. His character is highly respectable; and he enjoys the intimacy of some of the first personages in the kingdom. W.

EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

WILLIAM, Earl of Dartmouth, succeeded his father in the year 1713, being then only twenty-five years of age. In 1755 he espoused a rich heiress of the name of Nichols, by whom he got a very considerable addition to his fortune.

His Lordship being of a pious turn of mind, his conduct has been chiefly marked by an attention to religious duties, for which, as well as correctness of manners, he has been more distinguished than most men of the same rank. Notwithstanding this, he has not entirely abstracted himself from public affairs, for we find him at times filling some of the most considerable offices in the state.

His Lordship connected himself early in life with the Rockingham party, and when they came into power in 1765, he was made First Lord of Trade, and sworn of the privy-council.

He, however, does not seem to have continued staunch to his old friends, for although he went out with them, yet about the year 1772 he was induced to accept of the post of Secretary of State, and soon after removed to the head of the board of trade. In this situation he took a warm and de-

cided part against the Americans, which recommended him so much to his Majesty, that in 1775, he had the custody of the Privy Seal confided to him, which office he retained during the whole remaining term of Lord North's administration.

This noble Lord, who, along with the late Baron Smythe, was the chief support of the *evangelical preaching* at the Lock-chapel, is by many considered a methodist. It is, therefore, somewhat remarkable that a man of his retired and serious turn of mind, should engage in the busy career of politics. Soon after his dismissal, he joined the coalition, and by them was appointed Lord Steward of the Household, which place he retained about nine months; and when his friends were driven out of power, he retired with them, and has continued ever since in the obscurity of private life.

During the struggle about the regency he took the side of the prince, for which his Highness shewed his gratitude, by appointing his son, Lord Lewisham, Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall.

Lord Dartmouth is esteemed a man of sense, and was considered as a tolerable speaker in the House of Lords. In private life, he bears the character of a good husband, a good parent, and a kind master; and is, on the whole, one of the most inoffensive among the nobility.

So early as the year 1755, we find the late Mr. James Hervey, author of the "Meditations," &c. one of his Lordship's intimates, and speaking highly of his pious disposition.

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He was also the particular friend of the late Countess of Huntingdon, Mr. George Whitefield, and all the eminent supporters of Calvinistical Methodism. It must be allowed, that, as a *private* man, he has borne himself with an uniform character through life ; and with the *profession* of piety, has invariably connected the *practice* of it.

Lord Dartmouth has a numerous family ; no less than eight sons and one daughter.

THE HON. AND REV. DR. SHUTE BARRINGTON,

LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

JOHN SHUTE BARRINGTON, who was created an English Viscount in the year 1720, was the intimate friend of the immortal LOCKE, and, like him, a firm assertor of the liberties of mankind, an acute metaphysician, and an able expositor and defender of the sacred scriptures. His Lordship died the latter end of 1734, and left behind him six sons, five of whom have arrived at great eminence in the professions of the army, navy, the law, and the church.

The subject of our present notice was the youngest of these, and was born about the year 1732: He received his education at Eton school, whence he was removed to the university of Oxford, where he was entered of Merton College ; but he afterwards went to Christ-church, of which he became a student.

He entered into holy orders in 1756, and the year following took his degree of Master of Arts.

In 1761, he was appointed Chaplain to the King, and next year was promoted to be a Canon of Christ-church. June 10th, 1762, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him; and in 1766, on the death of Dr. Taylor, he was presented to a residentiary canonry in the cathedral of St. Paul.

In the year 1769, he was made Bishop of Landaff; and while in that station he brought a bill into the House of Lords, the object of which went to check the encreasing evil of matrimonial infidelity, by preventing persons divorced by parliament, from marrying those with whom they had been criminal. His Lordship observed, that many acts of adultery had been committed solely with the intention to obtain separation, in order to form new alliances; and, therefore, he was desirous of putting a legal barrier against that licentious practice. In this attempt he was supported by the opinion of the ablest lawyers and divines in the kingdom. His laudable design, however, fell to the ground; though had it taken place, much good would have been effected by it, and the long catalogue of divorces would, perhaps, have been drawn within a very narrow compass.

In the year 1782, his Lordship was translated to the see of Salisbury, where he distinguished himself greatly by his liberality in repairing and beautifying the noble cathedral of that diocese; and on the death of Bishop Thurlow, in 1791, he was removed to Durham, with the approbation of every well-wisher to the church and state.

In his episcopal capacity, his Lordship has conducted himself with great dignity of manners, and with the most exemplary attention to the duties of his office.

He has been very watchful over the behaviour of his clergy; and has shewn a most commendable circumspection with respect to the character and qualifications of candidates for holy orders.

With a laudable zeal to promote the study of sacred literature, he bestows premiums upon such as excel in the Hebrew and Greek languages. This, we believe, is quite a novel practice; and, doubtless, were it generally followed, it would not only create a spirit of emulation in young persons preparing for the church, but would, moreover, render most of them ashamed of appearing before the Bishop, or Archdeacon, without a tolerable share of sacred learning.

One anecdote of his Lordship, does high honour to his liberality and his piety. A relation of Mrs. Barrington having experienced some embarrassments and disappointments in life, wished to amend his situation (being a military officer), by entering into the church, thinking that the Bishop would provide handsomely for him. On making the necessary application to his kinsman, he was asked what preferment would satisfy him. To this home question he readily answered, that about 500*l.* a year would make him a happy man. "You shall have it," said his Lordship, "but not out of the patrimony of the church. I will not deprive a
" worthy

“worthy and regular divine to provide for a necessary relation. You shall have the sum you mention yearly out of my own pocket.”

The Bishop has published several single sermons, and some episcopal charges, which have been greatly esteemed. He also contributed some valuable notes to Mr. Bowyer’s “Conjectures on the New Testament,” and he has given the world an edition of his father’s “Miscellanea Sacra,” in three volumes, 8vo. with many additions and corrections.

Though a supporter of administration, he has conducted himself in parliament with great moderation.

His Lordship, in 1761, married Lady Diana Beauclerk, who died in 1768; and in 1770, chose for his second wife, a Miss Guest. By the first alliance, he obtained the interest of a very powerful family, and by the second, a large fortune. W.

MR. KING,

THE COMEDIAN.

THE character of an actor, in private life, has been usually beheld, throughout all Europe, with a certain degree of coolness, bordering on contempt. In Spain, we believe, comedians are not admitted to *confession*, at this very day; and it is well known, that in France, previously to the abolition, or at least the *limitation* of the Monarchy, they did not enjoy

enjoy the rites of sepulture, or, in other words, were not permitted to participate in "a Christian burial." In this country, illiberal prejudices are happily of less avail, and the names of Shakspeare and of Garrick have contributed not a little to shield the whole profession from indiscriminate contumely.

The object of this memoir, known to all lovers of the drama by the familiar name of "Tom King," seems to have received a better education than the bulk of the fraternity. His family, which was respectable, sent him to a good grammar-school in the country, whence, at a proper period, he was moved to London, and articled to an attorney.

He soon, however, became captivated with the stage; and quitting his profession, accompanied Shuter, and joined a strolling company, about thirty miles from London. This, of course, irritated his parents, who, instead of endeavouring to reclaim, abandoned and left him to shift for himself. If Tate Wilkinson is correct in his dates, Mr. King must now have been on the stage full half a century, for he tells us, that he played under Mr. Garrick in 1748.

Those who have seen this excellent actor of late, will scarcely be induced to believe, that for many years after his first appearance he betook himself, almost exclusively, to tragedy. In 1748, he performed George Barnwell; and next year appeared in Dublin in the character of the Roman Father!

He at length obtained an engagement at Bath,
where

where he contracted a friendship with Miss Baker, at that time a celebrated dancer, and who is at present his wife.

His success at Bath recommended him to the managers of Drury-lane, who employed him at a small salary, and entrusted him only with inferior parts; nor could he, for some time, obtain any character in the least suitable to his talents. He therefore quitted that theatre, repaired again to Ireland, and acted in a considerable number of comic characters, with great applause. He had, by this time, contrived to form a very reputable set of acquaintance in Dublin, and would probably have remained in that country, had he not foreseen the divisions which were likely to take place there, in theatrical concerns. He accordingly applied to Mr. Garrick, and the fame of his abilities having reached England before his offer, he was engaged at a genteel salary.

Garrick immediately brought him out in the character of *Tom*, in the "Conscious Lovers;" in which, and many other comic situations, he obtained uncommon applause. But what raised his fame to the standard at which it afterwards stood, was his inimitable performance of *Lord Ogleby*, in the "Clandestine Marriage," which he executed in so masterly a style, as to obtain the most flattering attention, and greatly assist the run of that excellent comedy.

Garrick, it is said, intended to play the part himself, but could not fix on a mode of acting it to his mind.

mind. On this he desired King to try, and was so pleased with the first specimen he gave at the rehearsal, that he declared, if he could support the same style throughout, it would be one of the first comic characters on the stage.

On the death of Mr. Powell, in 1765, Mr. King purchased his share of the Bristol theatre, which turned out profitable to him; and with his winter engagement at Drury-lane, produced a very handsome income. He sold it, however, a few years after, to Mr. Palmer, of the theatre at Bath (late of the post-office), and purchased the property of Sadler's Wells; but this not being so productive as he wished, he disposed of it to Mr. Wroughton.

When Mr. Sheridan and the other partners purchased Drury-lane house, that gentleman's inimitable play of "The School for Scandal" was brought out there. This afforded Mr. King a new opportunity of displaying his talents for comedy, in the character of *Sir Peter Teazle*; and when Mr. S. embarked so deeply in politics, as to prevent his attending the duty of the theatre, he delegated his power to King, and appointed him acting manager.

A little before this, Mr. K. had absented himself during a whole season from the stage; on his return, he wrote an interlude for his introduction, called "A dramatic Olio," which was well received. He has also written "Love at first Sight," a ballad-farce, acted at Drury-lane in 1765; and "Wit's last Stake," another farce, played at the same house in 1769.

But

But in the midst of this prosperity, and after he had realized a handsome fortune, a passion, which he had long suppressed, broke out, and destroyed his pleasing prospects. While under Mr. Garrick's dominion, and a candidate for public favour, he discovered an insurmountable propensity to play; which, although cautioned against, he could not resist, but lost all his earnings at the gaming-table. One night, however, fortune smiled, and he gained so large a sum as 2000*l*. On this he is said to have immediately made a most solemn declaration, both to Garrick and his wife, "that he would never touch a dice-box again!" It has even been said, that he executed a bond for a sum of money to the former, under penalty of forfeiture in case he ever gamed. King kept his resolution for many years, until, by the death of his friend "Davy," he perhaps deemed himself absolved from his engagement. Having then an extensive circle of genteel acquaintance, he was induced to enter himself, about the year 1784 or 1785, a member of the club at Miles's, merely from the love of society, and fully secure, as he thought, against the allurements of play. He was, however, at last tempted; and losing, at first, some small sums, became vexed, and ventured deeper, until that fortune he had been so long accumulating by his exertions was almost totally exhausted. In consequence of this, he parted with his pretty little villa at Hampton, and exchanged his house in Gerrard-street, for a small one in Store-street, Bedford-square.

Nor was the loss of fortune the only disappointment that ensued. He was, at that very time, in treaty with Dr. Ford for a share of Drury-lane theatre; but this unlucky transfer of his property rendered him incapable of making good the payment. Some trifling dispute having occurred, in consequence of this, Mr. King, in anger, resigned his two situations, as actor and manager, at Drury-lane theatre.

He was, however, under the necessity of relying once more on the stage for a maintenance; and accordingly, in 1788, he repaired to Dublin, the scene of his juvenile triumphs, where he was again received with all that warmth and enthusiasm so delectable to an old favourite.

On his return he performed a stipulated number of nights at Covent-garden theatre, both to the advantage of himself and the manager; and next season he resumed his situation at Drury-lane.

Actuated by motives of sincere friendship, Mr. Smith, who had long quitted the stage, came to town last year, expressly on purpose to play *Charles* in the "School for Scandal," for his benefit; and the house, as might be expected, was, in the language of the theatre, "a bumper!"

Mr. King is undoubtedly the first comic actor the stage has possessed for many years, and also stands unrivalled in the happy art of delivering a lively prologue.

THE HON. BROWNLOW NORTH,

LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

THIS respectable prelate is half-brother of the late Frederick, Earl of Guildford, the amiable but culpable minister of this country, in perhaps one of the most eventful periods of its history.

Brownlow was educated at Eton school, whence he removed to Trinity college, Oxford, which he afterwards left for a fellowship of All-Souls.

Here he took his degree of LL.D. and on entering into holy orders, was preferred to a canonry of Christ-Church; in 1770, he was advanced to the Deanery of Canterbury, and appointed one of the king's Chaplains; the year following, he was consecrated Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry *.

In 1774, he was translated and confirmed in the see of Worcester; and in 1781, he was removed to Winchester.

In all the situations he has filled, his Lordship has obtained distinguished reputation; and every church over which he has presided, ranks his name in the catalogue of its most munificent prelates.

When he was Bishop of Worcester, he promoted that excellent institution for the benefit of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen belonging

* Dr. North was Dean of Canterbury before he was twenty-nine years old, and Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry at the age of thirty-three, being the youngest Protestant prelate ever consecrated in England.

to his diocese, in aid of the charity derived to them from the music meeting, and also for the relief of the aged infirm incumbents of small livings, and of poor curates with large families.

His Lordship's manner is highly dignified, yet condescending ; he blends authority and watchfulness with tenderness and benevolence. He is justly regarded as the father of his diocese ; and his charities, which are very extensive, are judiciously administered.

His Lordship has invariably preserved, through life, the esteem of men of all parties and persuasions. During a long residence in Italy, whither he went on account of his health, he attracted the universal regard of the dignified clergy of the Roman communion. In short, the suavity of his manners, and his elegant deportment, excited in many a high degree of respect for the English HIERARCHY.

Dr. North at one time took an active part in the great political questions of the day. In 1784, he supported Mr. Fox's celebrated India bill in the House of Lords ; and, during another important period, we find his name in every division of the peers, in favour of the Prince of Wales' uncontroverted right to the Regency.

As Bishop of the see of Winchester, he is Prelate of the Garter, the *insignia* of which order are constantly worn by his Lordship.

He is now a widower, and has four daughters and two sons.

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, OF EXETER.

THIS elegant composer, and ingenious writer, was born at Exeter, in May, 1730. His father was an eminent grocer in that place, and afterwards master of the city workhouse.

He gave his son a very liberal education; and perceiving that the bent of his genius lay towards music, he complied with his inclinations, and put him under the tuition of Mr. Travers, organist of the cathedral church of St. Peter, in Exeter, with whom he continued two years. After leaving Mr. Travers, Mr. Jackson went to London, about the year 1748, where he became a pupil of Mr. Travers, organist of the King's chapel, and of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, with whom he also remained two years, and then returned to his native city, where he taught music for many years with great reputation. He also published several charming compositions, marked by the most chaste conception, the most elegant taste, and the most correct knowledge of the principles of harmony. In short, all his pieces were received with applause, and still rank very high in the musical world.

Notwithstanding his great and universally acknowledged merit in his profession, he obtained no situation as an organist till Michaelmas, 1777, when he succeeded Mr. Richard Langdon as Sub-chanter, Organist, Lay-vicar, and Master of the Choristers, in the cathedral of Exeter.

Mr.

Mr. Jackson, early in life, married Miss Bartlett, a milliner at Exeter, who is still alive, and by whom he has had several children, three of whom, only, are now living—two sons and a daughter. One of the former (the elder) went to India, and returned thence with a competent fortune, which he intended to enjoy in his native city, in the bosom of his family; but the appointment of an embassy to the court of Pekin, called him from his retirement into service, and he accordingly accompanied Lord Macartney on that mission, and now resides once more near Exeter. The youngest son living is employed at present at Turin, as secretary of legation, at that court.

After amusing the circle of his friends with several ingenious pieces of his writing, in prose and verse, Mr. Jackson appeared as a composer in the year 1755, and as an author in 1782; a list of his publications is subjoined. His first literary work was printed in two volumes, small octavo, and entitled “Thirty Letters on various Subjects.” These formed a miscellaneous collection on literature and science, and evinced extensive knowledge, united with an elegant taste. On poetry, music, and painting, his opinions are allowed to be very ingenious, and have obtained general approbation. But in some respects he manifested somewhat of a paradoxical spirit, particularly in the instance of *spontaneous generation*, a notion which he attempted to illustrate, and revive from the oblivion in which it had so deservedly sunk. These letters, on the

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whole, raised our author's credit very high. It was not, however, till 1795, that he thought proper to publish a new edition of them, although they had been out of print for several years before. To that edition (being the third), which is in one volume, octavo, there are several additions and corrections.

In the year 1791, he published a pamphlet "On the present State of Music, in London," of which there was soon a second edition.

During the last year, Mr. Jackson added a second volume to his Letters, under the title of "The Four Ages; with Essays on various Subjects." In this ingenious work he considers the four mythological ages as characteristic of so many distinct periods of the world, but in a different order from that in which the poets have placed them. Among the essays there is a most curious and entertaining one, on the character of Gainborough the painter, of whom some whimsical anecdotes are given.

In the year 1792, a literary society was instituted at the Globe inn, Fore-street, Exeter, of which the first members were, Dr. Downman, president; Mr. Polwele, author of "The History of Devonshire;" Mr. Jackson; the Rev. Mr. Swete, of Oxton; Mr. Hole, author of an "Essay on the Arabian Nights' Entertainments;" Mr. Sheldon, the anatomist; and other ingenious gentlemen, resident in Exeter, or its environs. Each produced, in his turn, an essay in prose or verse, which was read.

read at the regular meeting of the society. An octavo volume of these was printed, in 1796, which reflects great honour upon this institution.

Mr. Jackson possesses the advantage of a chaste, correct, and even elegant style. The reader will not flumber over his pages, or when he has perused either of his volumes, will he wish to lay it by in peace: he will recur to it often with new avidity, and receive from it fresh pleasure. The same may be said of his literary as of his musical compositions, that they will always charm with the force of novelty and delight, though repeated a thousand and a thousand times.

In temper and conversation he is what he appears in his writings, pleasant, social, communicative, and abounding with judicious remarks and entertaining anecdotes. Here follows a list of his works:

HIS MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS CONSIST OF,

- 1 Four Books of Songs.
- 2 Two of Canzonets.
- 3 One of Elegies.
- 4 One of Pastorals.
- 5 Ode to Fancy.
- 6 An Anthem and Ode of Pope.
- 7 A Book of Hymns.
- 8 Two Books of Sonatas.
- 9 Two Operas.
- 10 One Book of Epigrams.
- 11 One of Madrigals.
- 12 One of Quartets.

HIS LITERARY PUBLICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Thirty Letters, three editions.
- 2 On the present State of Music, two editions; and
- 3 The Four Ages, &c.

To the above he has set his name. He has also published a First Book for Performers on Keyed Instruments, and various Letters and Essays in periodical publications—anonymous.

LORD MALMSBURY.

THIS distinguished nobleman, whose name will frequently occur in the history of George the Third, would have inherited philosophy as well as fortune from his ancestors, could the one have been as easily transmitted as the other.

His father, James Harris, Esq. the celebrated author of HERMES, was the son of Elizabeth, sister to Anthony, Earl of Shaftesbury, the immortal author of the CHARACTERISTICS. He was born at Salisbury, in 1708, and after receiving a classical education in that city, was removed to Wadham college, Oxford, which he left without taking a degree.

He represented the borough of Christ-church, in Hampshire, in several parliaments; but did not obtain any public office till the year 1763, when he was preferred to a seat at the Admiralty-board, which

which he resigned soon after, on being appointed to another on the Treasury-bench. In July, 1765, he was deprived of his place, and continued out of office until 1774, when he became Secretary and Comptroller to the Queen, which post he held till his death, December 21st, 1780.

His only son, JAMES HARRIS, now Lord Malmſbury, was born April 20th, 1746, and being early designed for a public life, received an education accordingly:

Under so profound and elegant a scholar as Mr. Harris, the son could not but derive every assistance calculated to render him an ornament to his family. His education, prior to his removal to Oxford, was conducted chiefly under the eye of his father. He also left college without taking a degree, and was very early employed as secretary to an embassy at one of the Northern courts.

In 1772, he appeared in the character of Envoy-extraordinary at Berlin; and in the following year both he and his father were returned members of parliament for Christ-church, a borough which has, for many years, been under the patronage of the family. His diplomatic conduct gave so much satisfaction to the government which he represented, that, in 1775, he was made Knight of the Bath, and soon after appointed Envoy-extraordinary to the court of Russia.

After residing a considerable time at Peterſburgh, he was employed as ambassador at the Hague; which important station was occupied by him in the year 1787, when Holland was threatened

with a revolution, averted, for some time, by a humiliating recourse to the assistance of Prussian bayonets. The conduct of Sir James Harris on that occasion was peculiarly offensive to the patriots; but it was so highly satisfactory to the Prince of Orange, and the King of Prussia, that they bestowed upon him the privilege of bearing the Prussian eagle in his arms, with the motto appertaining to the House of Nassau, in consideration of the signal services which he had rendered them.

These distinctions were confirmed by his own sovereign, in 1789, and Sir James was created a peer, September 15th, 1788, by the title of Lord Malmsbury, Baron of Malmsbury, in the county of Wilts.

His lordship remained out of employment from that time till the government found it expedient, at the end of 1796, to comply with the wish of the people, in endeavouring to obtain the restoration of peace. No man at that period appeared more fit to be entrusted with such an important charge than Lord Malmsbury; and we believe that his *first* appointment to this station was with the entire approbation of all parties. His lordship's negotiation, however, failed; and he was enjoined to quit Paris, by a peremptory order of the French Directory, in forty-eight hours, December, 1796*.

* The Directory conceived that he had been tampering as a partisan, rather than treating like a diplomatic agent.

Whatever opinions may be entertained respecting the conduct of the two powers, in this negotiation, or the views with which they were actuated, it must be allowed that his lordship evinced, the most consummate knowledge of diplomatic business,

A second attempt to put an end to this long and sanguinary contest, was thought proper to be made by our ministers, in June, 1797, and Lord Malmesbury was again appointed to the office of negociator. The necessary preliminaries having been accordingly settled with the Directory, his lordship and suite set out, on the 30th of that month, for Lille, the place fixed upon as the seat of business; and the French government immediately extended a chain of telegraphs between that city and Paris.

It would be foreign to our purpose to enter into the merits of the political manœuvres practised in this diplomatic game. The French Commissioners shewed themselves adroit enough for his lordship, though an old practitioner, versed in all the arts of modern intrigue. Their demands, as far as they avowed them, were abundantly extravagant; and the care with which they concealed their objects, was particularly dextrous. After playing with each other till the patience of all Europe was exhausted, and suspicions began to take place, on the score of sincerity, the Commissioners had recourse to their old method of putting an end to the negotiation, and actually dismissed

dismissed his lordship, upon the plea that he was not vested with full powers to resign the whole of the conquests made by this country from France and her allies during the war.

The English minister accordingly quitted Lisle, and arrived in London on the 20th of September, without having effected a single step favourable to the great object on which he was employed. It has been, indeed, said, in the senate of a neighbouring country, that the "Irish Directory" impeded his operations, by means of their agent!

Without throwing the slightest reflection upon his lordship's talents, or inclinations, we yet cannot but acquiesce with the opinion of many very respectable politicians, and those, too, of the most moderate cast of sentiment, that after the ill success which attended his former mission, it was bad policy in the ministry to employ the same person in a similar negociation.

Indeed some have ventured to say, that the line of practice in which his lordship has usually been engaged, rendered him unfit to be charged with this business. Different times, people, and occasions, certainly call for different kinds of treatment. New modes, and even a new language, should be adopted, in negotiating with a people who have thrown aside old political ceremonies and considerations; and, therefore, another kind of ambassador should have been sent to treat with them, than one whose whole life had been occupied

pied in the knowledge and practice of the ancient diplomatic forms.

Whether this sort of reasoning be right or wrong, we shall not take upon us to determine. But we cannot help regretting, that when his lordship's first attempt failed, his Majesty's ministers had not put it out of the power of their adversaries to accuse them of insincerity, by employing another minister, when they thought it expedient to treat once more for the restoration of peace.

This nobleman possesses the confidence of the present administration, and is intimately acquainted with its views relative to continental politics. We may, therefore, prognosticate, that his diplomatic talents will not be suffered to rust in obscurity.

Lord Malmesbury married, July 28th, 1777, the daughter of the late Sir George Amyand, Bart. and sister of the present Sir George Cornwall, Bart. He has by his lady several children.

He has, also, two sisters living; one married, the other single, and residing at his lordship's seat, the manor-house of Great Durnford, about four miles from Salisbury, only remarkable for its neat and embellished pleasure-grounds. In the same village still stands the cottage, to which the great author of *Hermes* retired from the busy world, and in which he wrote the chief part of his works. It is unoccupied, but the furniture, &c. is, in all respects, carefully and religiously preserved by Lord Malmesbury,

Malmesbury, in the exact state in which it was left by his father. This very interesting building is entirely secluded from the public eye, being surrounded on three sides by walls, and only open on the west side, which adjoins the Avon. His lordship generally spends a few weeks in every year in the manor-house, in great retirement.

W. J.

JOSEPH WHITE, D.D.

CLAUDIAN PROFESSOR OF ARABIC,

In the University of Oxford.

THE lives of such men as have risen from very low situations in life to distinguished eminence, by the strength of their talents alone, are among the most useful articles of biography, because they hold out encouragement to young persons of a like description to exert their abilities with perseverance; and, at the same time, afford a lesson to those who have it in their power to assist genius. Had CHATTERTON met with a friend, generous enough to put him in a line where he might have turned his talents to an honourable and beneficial account, he would not, probably, have sought an early grave as a refuge from his miseries.

The very ingenious and worthy subject of the present article, was born of parents in indigent circumstances.

circumstances, in Gloucestershire. His father, we are informed, was a journeyman weaver, and brought his son up to the same profession. Being, however, a sensible man, and, for one in his situation, tolerably educated, he gave him what little learning was in his power. This excited a thirst for greater acquisitions.

Young White inherited a serious cast of temper from his parents; and he employed all the time he could spare in the study of such books as fell in his way. His attainments, at length, were so very respectable, that he began to be talked of as a prodigy of learning in his native village. A neighbouring gentleman of fortune luckily chanced to hear of this celebrated scholar; and curiosity inclined him to see and converse with him. The modesty of the self-instructed youth recommended him to favour, while the respectability of his knowledge rendered him an object of admiration. The gentleman felt that it was a pity such a flower should

“ blush unseen,

“ And waste its sweetness in the desert air :”

he accordingly encouraged his scholastic ambition. He assisted him also considerably in his studies: and so rapidly did the young plant flourish under his fostering care, that the generous patron sent him to the university of Oxford, where he was entered of Wadham college. There he applied himself with such assiduity to his studies, as to
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gain the general esteem of the members of that society.

On the 19th. of February, 1773, he took the degree of Master of Arts; and about that time engaged in the study of the oriental languages, to which he was induced by the particular recommendation of Dr. Moore, now Archbishop of Canterbury; that discerning man having observed a dint of application in Mr. White, united with a peculiar turn for philological enquiries, which he thought might turn to his account, if devoted to one object. Fortunately he hit upon the one which was best suited for Mr. White, and which has been of the most essential service to him. He had before acquired a tolerable share of Hebrew learning; and, consequently, his progress in the other oriental languages was greatly facilitated.

In 1775, he was appointed Archbishop Laud's Professor of Arabic; on entering upon which office he pronounced a masterly oration, which was soon afterwards printed with the title of "*De Utilitate Ling. Arab. in Studiis Theologicis Oratio habita Oxoniis in Schola Linguarum, vii. id. Aprilis, 1775.*" 4to.

In this discourse the Professor endeavours to prove the vast importance and utility of the Arabic language, particularly in elucidating the sacred writings. He therefore dwelt upon the necessity of *this* branch of literature, and enforced the study of it with an ardor which was natural for one in his situation. The oration had its effect; and

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many were actually led to study the Arabic, who had before treated it as barren and unprofitable.

He was, at this time, Fellow of his college, being elected in 1774. In 1778, Mr. White printed the Syriac Philoxenian Version of the four gospels, the MS. of which Dr. Gloucester Ridley had given to New college. This version was entitled, "*Sacrorum Evangeliorum Versio Syriaca Philoxeniana Ex. Codd. MSS. Ridleianis in Bibl. Coll. Nov. Oxon. Repositis, nunc primum edite, cum Interpretatione et Annotationibus Josephi White, &c.*" 2 tom. 4to.

November 15, 1771, he preached a very ingenious and elegant sermon before the University, which, according to custom, was soon afterwards printed, under the title of "*A Revival of the English Translation of the Old Testament recommended. To which is added, some Account of an ancient Syriac Translation of great Part of Origen's Hexaplar Edition of the LXX. lately discovered in the Ambrosian Library at Milan,*" 4to. About this time he was appointed one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel.

In 1780, Mr. White published "*A Specimen of the Civil and Military Institutes of Timour or Tamerlane: a work written originally by that celebrated conqueror in the Mosul Language, and since translated into Persian. Now first rendered from the Persian into English, from a MS. in the possession of William Hunter, M.D. with other pieces,*" 4to.

The whole of this work appeared in 1783, translated into English by Major Davy, with Preface, Index, Geographical Notes, &c. by Mr. White, in one volume, 4to.

In Easter term, 1783, being then Bachelor of Divinity, he was appointed to preach the Bampton lecture the next year. As soon as he was nominated he sketched out the plan; and finding assistance necessary to the perfection of it in such a manner as he wished, he went down to Devonshire on a visit to Mr. Samuel Badcock, then settled as a dissenting minister at South Molton. Doubtless, in this interview, the scheme was well digested, and Mr. Badcock undertook his share of the task with that promptitude for which he was remarkable. This circumstance released the professor's mind from a considerable burthen which had oppressed it. Where, indeed, could he have found such an auxiliary? The pen of Badcock was not only that of "a ready" but of an elegant writer. He touched no subject without ornamenting it. His style was chaste, flowing, and nervous. He had, moreover, an universal knowledge of theological learning. In controversy he was quite at home. No wonder, therefore, that the Bampton lectures were admirable in point of language, and forcible in respect to argument.

Let us not, however, detract from the lecturer's merit. Great was the genius which formed the plan, and gave a body to the work. Mr. White acted with prudence in calling to his aid such men

as Badcock and Parr. Yet his own share of these labours was sufficient to entitle him to the celebrity which they have procured, and he is only to be blamed for not having acknowledged his obligations to those elegant scholars, in a preface to the volume when published.

As soon as the lectures were delivered, the applause with which they were received was general throughout the University. They were printed the same year, and met with universal approbation. A second edition appeared in 1785, to which the author added a sermon, which he had some time before preached before the University, on the necessity of propagating christianity in the East-Indies.

Mr. White's reputation was now established, and he was considered as one of the ablest vindicators of the christian doctrines modern time had witnessed. Lord Thurlow, without any sollicitation, gave him a prebend in the cathedral of Gloucester, which at once placed him in easy and independent circumstances. Soon after this he took his degree of Doctor of Divinity, and was looked up to with the greatest respect in the University, as one of its chief ornaments, until the year 1788, when the death of Mr. Badcock disclosed his share in the admired lectures. At first, Dr. White was astonished; but the letters that had passed between Badcock and him, on this very subject, were not only in existence, but in the hands of one who felt himself gratified in being the possessor of so important a secret. In addition

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dition to this, there was, found among the papers of the deceased, a promissory-note for 500*l.* from the Doctor; the payment of which was demanded, but refused by him on the ground that it was illegal in the first instance, as not having the words "value received," and secondly, that it was for service to be rendered in the history of Egypt, which the Doctor and Mr. Badcock had projected. The friends of the deceased, however, were of a different opinion; and the Doctor, at length, very properly consented to liquidate the debt.

Notwithstanding this concession, Dr. Gabriel, who possessed the letters, printed them in 1789, in order, as he said, to vindicate the character of the deceased, as well as his own, both of which had been assailed on this occasion. In consequence of this publication, Dr. White printed "A Statement of his literary Obligations to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Badcock, and the Rev. Samuel Parr, LL.D." By this it appeared, that though Mr. Badcock's share in the lectures was considerable and important, yet that it was not in that proportion which had been represented. As to Dr. Parr's, it consisted simply of verbal corrections.

Thus ended this curious dispute, which, at that time, threw the whole University into confusion and even contention. The Doctor's apology, however (for such in fact his statement is to be considered), gave sufficient satisfaction, not only to his fellow academics, but to the literary world at large.

Since that period the professor has vacated his fellowship,

fellowship, by taking to himself a wife, and accepting a college living, in Norfolk, where he resides during a considerable part of the year. In his parsonage-house, he has a printing-press, with a large quantity of oriental types, and there he is at present busily engaged in printing the Syriac Old Testament, described in the appendix to his sermon on the necessity of a revival of the English translation of the Bible. His man and maid servant labour at the press, and Mrs. White assists her husband in composing.

Among Mr. Badcock's papers was found an analysis of the projected history of Egypt, in Dr. White's hand-writing. It is a very masterly sketch; and we hope the learned professor will find time to complete a design, for the execution of which he has, in a manner, pledged himself to the public; and, in consequence of recent and important events, we think it will bring him more credit and profit than the publication of the Syriac Bible.

Dr. White is the reviewer of publications in Hebrew and subjects of oriental literature in "the British Critic."

RICHARD HURD, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THIS learned and truly venerable prelate was born at Congreve, a village in Staffordshire, where his father was a respectable farmer, who intending his son for the church, placed him under the tuition of that eminent scholar Anthony Blackwall.

Having attained a sound classical knowledge, he was sent to Cambridge, where he was admitted of Emanuel College, of which he afterwards became fellow; and was presented by his society to the living of Thurcaston in Lincolnshire.

In this retirement he devoted himself to the duties of his situation, and the cultivation of letters. Here he prepared his edition of Horace, which he judiciously dedicated to Bishop Warburton, then considered as the colossus of literature, and the first critic of his day. Few persons had a keener eye to discern the merits of men than Warburton; and though no one, perhaps, had a more haughty mind, or ever treated his adversaries with such coarse severity, yet certainly he was destitute of envy, and dreaded not the depreciation of his own fame, in consequence of the rising reputation of others.

He allured Mr. Hurd from his beloved state of seclusion, and brought him forward to the world, almost against his own inclination. He made him Archdeacon of Gloucester, and by way of acquiring popularity

popularity for him in the metropolis, associated him with himself in the situation of preacher at the chapel in Lincoln's-Inn.

The object of the Bishop was soon obtained. Hurd's discourses procured general admiration; and the preacher attracted the notice and friendship of the *great* Earl of Mansfield, through whose interest he obtained the distinguished office of Preceptor to the Prince of Wales, a situation for which no man in the kingdom was better calculated, and the duties of which he performed with great honour to himself, and, it is to be hoped, benefit to his royal pupil.

Preferment was now certain; nor was it long withheld. In 1775 he was made Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry; in 1781 he was appointed clerk of the closet to the king; and on the 30th of June, of the same year, he was confirmed in the see of Worcester.

On the death of Dr. Cornwallis, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1783, that dignity was offered to Bishop Hurd; but he had obtained a situation more congenial to his wishes, and therefore he declined it.

Since his translation to Worcester, his Lordship has almost wholly secluded himself from the busy world, residing chiefly at Hartlebury castle, the episcopal palace of his diocese. This ancient and noble pile he has enriched by a large and inestimable library, containing the greater part of the books that had belonged to Mr. Pope and Bishop

Warburton, which he has bequeathed for the use of his successors.

Here he exhibits a faithful and beautiful picture of primitive episcopacy; beloved and venerated by all ranks, as well of the laity as the clergy.

It remains to say something of his Lordship's literary character; and it would not be exaggerated praise, to assert, that he stands at the head of the present generation of English scholars, eminently superior to those of his own age and standing, and unrivalled by such as are younger than himself.

He has shewn his critical powers and taste to the greatest advantage in his edition of Horace's "Epistolæ ad Pisones," &c. with an English commentary and notes; and also in his edition of Cowley's works. The first appeared in 1759, and the latter in 1772.

But the work which procured him the greatest reputation, was his "Moral and Political Dialogues, with Letters on Chivalry and Romance," 3 vols. 8vo. 1765. Some of the pieces had appeared before, without a name, and their success probably led the ingenious author to publish a complete and enlarged edition. These dialogues evince a profound knowledge of the English history and constitution, and breathe a warm attachment to the cause of liberty.

As a theological writer, his principal productions are two volumes of excellent sermons, preached before the Society of Lincoln's-Inn; and another of Discourses on the Prophecies, at the lecture found-
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ed by Bishop Warburton at the same place. In these compositions we observe deep thinking, close logical reasoning, fervent piety, and chaste and elegant language.

As a disputant, Dr. Hurd appeared to great advantage in a pamphlet entitled "Remarks on Mr. Hume's Essay on the Natural History of Religion." This anonymous performance irritated the philosopher considerably, and he expressed his resentment in terms that shewed how much he had been hurt by the castigation.

The attachment manifested by Dr. Hurd to Bishop Warburton has often brought upon him very illiberal censures. About the time of his first connexion with that great prelate, he printed an "Essay on the Delicacy of Friendship," in which Dr. Jortin and Dr. Leland of Dublin were treated rather roughly for their want of due respect to the author's patron. When we recollect the motives which produced this essay, we see no reason to blame Dr. Hurd; his zeal for his friend was commendable, though it perhaps carried him rather beyond the line of prudence. When reflection operated on his mind, he accordingly saw reason to disapprove of his hastiness; and, much to his honour, took great pains to suppress the obnoxious pamphlet. It would have been, perhaps, better if the book had been suffered to sink into that oblivion which the author wished; as unfortunately, on his Lordship's publishing a large and magnificent edition of his friend's works in 1788, one of the

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greatest

greatest scholars of this age, too officiously, perhaps, and too much in that very spirit which he wanted to expose, reprinted the Essay, with some other "Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian."

When Bishop Hurd's edition of Warburton's works appeared, the world was greatly disappointed at not finding the long-expected life of that celebrated character. This afforded fresh ground for censure, which was by no means spared. In consequence of this complaint, he printed a prefatory discourse, by way of introduction to the work, containing a brief but elegant memoir of the author. Possibly on his lordship's decease a more copious biography of his ancient friend, and patron, will be left for publication: this, of course, will exhibit a history of English literature for half a century.

We had nearly forgotten to mention, that the earliest production of his Lordship's pen, which has appeared in print, was an Ode on the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

W.

DAVID STEWART ERSKINE,

EARL OF BUCHAN.

IF the love of freedom, and the love of literature; if eminent proficiency in the fine arts, and an eager fondness to patronise the same proficiency in others; if classical and patriotic enthusiasm, associated with not a few of the most amiable and respectable moral virtues;—are calculated to recommend
any

any man to the esteem and praise of his contemporaries, David, Earl of Buchan, cannot fail of obtaining the highest approbation.

This nobleman is the representative of a younger branch of the illustrious family of the Erskines, Earls of Marr, whose virtues and wisdom recommended them for a series of generations to the very honourable and confidential office of tutors to the ancient Kings of Scotland. At the university of Glasgow, in early youth, David, then known by the title of Lord Curdross, applied with ardent and successful diligence to every ingenious and liberal study. His hours of relaxation from science and literature were frequently passed in endeavours to acquire the arts of design, etching, engraving, and drawing, in the academy which the excellent, but ill requited, ROBERT FOULIS, for some time laboured to support in that western metropolis of Scotland.

Succeeding to the hereditary estates and honours of his family, he, from that moment, evinced a generous ambition to maintain and exalt, by his personal exertions, the true dignity of the Scottish peerage, and the name of ERSKINE.

The king's ministers had been long accustomed, at each new election, to transmit to every peer of Scotland, a list of the names of sixteen of his fellow-peers, for whom he was required to give his vote, in the choice of the members who should represent the nobles of Scotland in the British parliament, and to this humiliating usurpation, the descendants of the most illustrious names had accustomed themselves

selves tamely to submit! The Earl of Buchan, with the spirit of an ancient Baron, took an early opportunity of declaring, that he would oblige the Secretary of State who should insult him with such an application, to wash away the affront with his blood. The practice, from that time, ceased; and ministers were obliged to adopt some other less offensive mode of exercising their electioneering influence over the Caledonian peerage.

The Earl had two very promising brothers, both younger than himself; and on their education he earnestly bestowed that care which was to be expected from the kindness and vigilance, not merely of a near relation, but of a prudent and affectionate parent. The fortunes of his family had been, from different causes, not dishonoured indeed, but impaired so considerably, that they could no longer afford an annual income sufficiently ample to support its dignities with due splendour, and to enable him to gratify all the generous wishes of a munificent spirit. Struck with this, he resolutely adopted a plan of economy, admirably fitted to retrieve and re-establish those falling fortunes; and his endeavours (perhaps the most honourable and difficult which a young and liberal-minded nobleman could resolve upon), without subjecting him to the imputation of parsimony, have been crowned and rewarded with opulence.

He perceived, with concern, that since the days of Sibbald, and Gordon of Straloch, the study of the antiquities of the Scottish history had been shamefully

shamefully and unhappily neglected ; and it is chiefly owing to his patriotic exertions, that the Royal Antiquary Society of Scotland is indebted for its existence.

The High School of Edinburgh is confessedly one of the best seminaries of the kingdom, for the initiation of youth in the first principles of the Latin language. By frequent visits to this seminary, the Earl of Buchan has sought every opportunity of recommending to public notice the skill and attention of the teachers, as well as the happy proficiency of their pupils ; and he has bestowed an annual premium upon the successful competitor in a trial of excellence among the students at the university of Aberdeen.

On reviewing the memorials of the Scottish nobility, Lord Buchan felt his enthusiastic veneration in a particular manner excited by the science and virtues of the illustrious Napier, the inventor of logarithms, and the most eminent discoverer in philosophy of which Scotland can as yet boast. With a generous hand he aspired to crown the memory of his illustrious countryman with due honours ; and in a well-written biographical memoir, displayed his life and character to the reverence and imitation of the present age. The enthusiasm of Lord Buchan has also instituted an annual festive commemoration of Thomson, at Ednam, the scene of that poet's birth. Mr. Pinkerton, the historian and antiquary ; Burns, who was prematurely snatched away from the admiration of the present age ;

Tytler,

Tytler, the translator of Callimachus; and a long list of other men of genius, have been so fortunate as to attract the patronage and friendship of Lord Buchan.

The life of Andrew Fletcher has been, by his care, happily illustrated; and we owe to him some precious fragments of speeches and essays, by that incomparable patriot, which had not been before printed.

The Earl's exertions have been as invariably faithful to the cause of Liberty as of Literature. He has been always understood to be among the most zealous votaries of the principles upon which the revolution of 1688 was accomplished, and yet he unaccountably failed in an attempt to represent his own order in the British parliament. His voice, his writings, his exertions in every manly and honourable mode, have ever been ready to resist any threatened infringement of those principles, in the British legislature or government. When the new dawn of a revolution seemingly favourable to genuine liberty broke forth in France, he was not among the most tardy to hail its rise, and to bless its progress. When the kings of Europe arose in arms for the purpose of once more binding the genius of that nation in the fetters of despotism, the Earl could not view the ill-omened enterprise without devoutly wishing that its force might be shattered against the sacred armour of that virtue, and new-born freedom, which it boasted to destroy.

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On beholding those excesses into which the French have been hurried in the progress of their revolutionary career, he lamented that the errors of humanity are ever too closely associated with its most splendid and heroic exertions, yet without abandoning those generous wishes for the immortal establishment of Gallic freedom, which he had before accustomed himself to entertain.

Long may he survive to do honour to the age by his virtues; to sustain by his voice and his exertions the cause of genuine British freedom; and to patronise that literature, and those fine arts, in which he himself excels!

T. N.

JAMES NORTHCOTE, ESQ. R.A.

THIS ingenious artist is descended from the ancient and respectable family of the NORTHCOTES, which has been settled in Devonshire at least ever since the conquest, given several high sheriffs to the county, many representatives for it in parliament, and on which a baronetage was conferred in the reign of James the First.

The subject of the present article was born at Plymouth, in the year 1746. His father was an eminent tradesman in that town, and brought up his son to his own business. His propensity to the elegant arts, however, prevailed over the drudgery of a mechanical employment; and at length he determined to abandon the occupation in which he

he had been engaged, and devote himself entirely to his favourite object. With this view he came to London, and placed himself under the care and tuition of his countryman and friend Sir Joshua Reynolds, then in the zenith of his glory. That great man was ever ready to lend his helping hand to aspiring merit; and he gave Mr. Northcote his utmost assistance towards perfecting himself in the art of painting. Our artist continued with Sir Joshua five years, living with him in all the familiarity of friendship, and being introduced by him to the most eminent characters of the age.

In the summer of 1777, Mr. Northcote set out for Italy, following in this, the example and advice of his great master. He visited every part of that delightful country, which, at that time, was the unrivalled seat of the fine arts. At Rome he continued near three years, which he found short enough, for a man of taste, who was desirous of treasuring up in his mind the most extensive knowledge of the sciences connected with his profession.

During his residence in Italy, he profited so well by the opportunities he met with, and obtained so extensive an acquaintance with the first artists of the age and country in which he then was, that he became greatly respected. His talents and deportment procured him the honour of being elected a member of the ancient Etruscan Academy at Cartoni, of the Imperial Academy at Florence, and of the Academy Del Forti, at Rome.

While at Florence, he painted a portrait of himself,

self, for the academy, which is a compliment always expected from every new member.

He returned to England in 1780, and came by the way of Flanders, not only because it was during the time of war, but that he might have the advantage of observing all that could be seen of the eminent masters of the FLEMISH SCHOOL.

Thus amply furnished with every requisite that could constitute him a master in his profession, he entered upon it in the metropolis of his native country, shortly after his arrival, and soon obtained the most distinguished reputation. In 1786, he was chosen a member of the Royal Academy, and in every subsequent exhibition at Somerset-house his productions have borne a conspicuous part.

Perhaps the most perfect picture from his pencil was exhibited the year he was admitted of the academy. The subject—the two young princes murdered in the tower. The story is strikingly and affectingly told; the drawing is perfectly correct, and the assassins are particularly well delineated. This picture was purchased by Alderman Boydell, and an engraving from it graces his splendid edition of Shakspeare. Our artist has also painted some other pieces for the same work; all of which have great merit, but none in any degree equal with that just mentioned.

In the exhibition of 1796, Mr. Northcote produced a series of moral pictures, designed to shew the opposite effects of seriousness and levity in two sets of children, and a new set of young

young women in menial situations of life. He clearly had HOGARTH in view; but though his pictures are good, they tell not what they are meant to express with the force which characterizes that inimitable artist's productions. These have since been engraved.

It redounds greatly to his praise, that his pencil has never, in the slightest instance, deviated from morality and decency. The reputation which Mr. Northcote has acquired, as a painter, is doubtless well-merited. His colouring is chaste, forcible, and distinct; his pictures have that breadth of light and shade which is one of the most agreeable properties of a good painting, and which is yet so seldom observed, even in the works of masters. His historical pieces shew a great, and an accurate acquaintance with the subject, much study, and that vigour of conception which is the true characteristic of native genius.

In private life, Mr. Northcote is greatly esteemed, as a modest, unassuming, virtuous, well-informed, and communicative man. W.

RICHARD WATSON, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LANDAFF.

THIS liberal-minded prelate was born in the village of Eversham, about five miles from Kendal, in the county of Westmoreland, in the year 1737. His father was a clergyman, and master of the free

free grammar-school in Kendal, where our divine received the whole of his school education, prior to his going to the university of Cambridge. To this place he brought with him a good stock of classical learning, a spirit of persevering industry, and a very bad provincial accent, which he retained for a long time. He was admitted of Trinity college, and distinguished, while there, by a close application to his studies, and constantly wearing a coarse mottled Westmoreland coat, and blue yarn-stockings.

In taking his degrees, he stood high among the wranglers, and the suavity of his manners, the regularity of his conduct, and the respectability of his talents, procured him a fellowship and a college tutorship. On the former occasion he was opposed by Mr. Postlethwayte, who was deeply versed in mathematics, but knew nothing of the world. Poor Postlethwayte, with all his skill, could *demonstrate* himself fit only for a small country living, while Watson made his way to a professorship and a mitre. He, indeed, soon obtained the esteem of his own society, and of the university at large, to which a spirited opposition made by him to an improper recommendation of a candidate by the Duke of Grafton greatly contributed. This circumstance redounds to the honour both of Dr. Watson and the Duke, for the latter was so sensible of the propriety of the other's conduct, that he cultivated his acquaintance, and from that time they have been cordial friends.

It was not long after this, that he was elected public professor of Chymistry, though he was then actually ignorant of the first principles of that science. His electors, however, had no reason to repent of their choice, for he soon made up by diligence, the want of preparatory acquirements. He passed whole days, and sometimes nights, in the laboratory, assisted by a good practical chymist, whose name was Hoffman. In their first experiments, they destroyed numerous retorts, injured their health, endangered their lives, actually blew themselves up, and at length did the same by their workshop. But our professor was not to be intimidated by all these discouraging circumstances. He possessed an indefatigable spirit, which was destined to overcome difficulties.

His chymical character was at last completely established; and his lectures, which were crowded with auditors, acquired him a high reputation. He was next advanced to the *Regius* Professorship of Divinity, on the death of the learned Dr. Rutherford, and about the same time he married.

Dr. Watson very early distinguished himself in the career of politics, by his attachment to those Whig principles which have, until of late, uniformly distinguished Cambridge from her sister university. He chose a critical time to shew off these principles, and to gain himself popularity: this was the year 1776, when the subjects of Government and Civil Liberty were generally discussed. His sermon preached before the University

sity on the anniversary of the Restoration, was printed under the title of "The Principles of the Revolution vindicated;" and attracted a degree of attention, exceeded only by Bishop Hoadley's famous sermon on the kingdom of Christ. In the course of the same year he also published another discourse, preached before the university, on the anniversary of the King's accession. The publication of these brought on a controversy; but the only piece worth noticing, on this occasion, was "An Heroic Epistle to Dr. Watson," by the facetious author of "An Epistle to Sir William Chambers," under the appellation of "Macgregor."

He soon after gave more satisfaction to the religious world, and gained a higher portion of applause from the public at large, by "An Apology for Christianity, in a Series of Letters, addressed to Edward Gibbon, Esq." This work, though perhaps it is not sufficiently copious, raised the author's reputation very high, both as a controversialist, and a polite writer. The manner in which the divine treated the deistical historian, has been greatly admired by all but incorrigible bigots, and held up as an excellent example for imitation. Mr. Gibbon declined entering into a discussion of the disputed points with the professor; but he wrote him a very polite letter, to which he received as polite an answer. The correspondence has been printed by Lord Sheffield, and it does honour to both parties.

Dr. Watson printed another political sermon,

preached before the university of Cambridge, February 4th, 1780, being the day appointed for a general fast, which discourse is of the same complexion as those above mentioned.

In 1781, he published a volume of Chymical Essays, addressed to his pupil the late Duke of Rutland. This work was received by the public with such great and deserved approbation, as to encourage the author to give the world, at different times, four additional volumes, all of acknowledged merit:

In the preface to the last volume, he has these remarkable observations: “ When I was elected
 “ professor of divinity, in 1771, I determined to
 “ abandon, for ever, the study of chymistry, and
 “ I did abandon it for several years; but the
 “ *veteris vestigia flammæ* still continued to delight
 “ me, and at length seduced me from my purpose.

“ When I was made a Bishop, in 1782, I again
 “ determined to quit my favourite pursuit: the
 “ volume which I now offer to the public is a sad
 “ proof of the imbecility of my resolution. I
 “ have on this day, however, offered a sacrifice to
 “ other people’s notions, I confess, rather than
 “ to my own opinion of *episcopal decorum*—I have
 “ destroyed all my chymical manuscripts.—A
 “ prospect of returning health might have per-
 “ suaded me to pursue this delightful science; but I
 “ have now certainly done with it for ever; at least,
 “ I have taken the most effectual step I could, to
 “ wean myself from an attachment to it; for, with
 “ the

“ the holy zeal of the idolaters of old, who had
“ been addicted to curious arts—*I have burned my*
“ *books.*”

At length Dr. Watson's merits, and the recommendation of the Duke of Rutland, procured him a seat on the episcopal bench, on the translation of Bishop Barrington from the see of Landaff to Salisbury. This bishopric being poor, he was permitted to hold with it the Archdeaconry of Ely, a Rectory in Leicestershire, and the divinity professorship, to which is annexed the valuable living of Sametham.

The gratitude of another pupil of Dr. Watson's is still more memorable. The late Mr. Luther, of Ongar, in Essex, at his decease, in 1786, bequeathed to his tutor the sum of 20,000*l.*

The Bishop was hardly warm in his seat, before he brought himself into pretty general notice, as the advocate of ecclesiastical reform, in “ A Letter addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury.” In this, his lordship stated, with no small force, and with considerable pathos, the hardships of the inferior clergy, and the necessity of an equalization of church-preferments. Though his arguments were conclusive, and though the facts which he adduced were incontrovertible, yet many friends to his scheme thought him rather too precipitate and irregular in bringing forward his sentiments on this subject. An address to the metropolitan, through the medium of the press, from the junior prelate on the bench, was considered as a mode of proceeding

proceeding not quite in the strict line of ecclesiastical propriety, nor the best calculated to attain the object in view.

This letter accordingly drew down on his lordship some very severe strictures from the pen of Mr. Cumberland, a writer of great powers; but who, on this occasion, was far from manifesting a commendable temper.

The public curiosity was greatly excited when the Bishop was appointed to preach before the Lords, January 30th, 1783. His discourses at Cambridge were still fresh in every person's remembrance, and, therefore, something unusual was expected on this occasion. The abbey was uncommonly crowded; but the Bishop conducted himself with extreme caution, and delivered a sermon admirable in its composition, and very temperate in its sentiments.

In 1786, his lordship published, at Cambridge, "A Collection of Theological Tracts," in six volumes, octavo, designed entirely for the use of students in divinity. This collection consists of pieces, many of which were become exceedingly scarce, on the most interesting subjects in sacred literature, by different writers. Little else is wanting to form such a compilation, but great reading, candour, and judgment. These are sufficiently displayed in this edition; which cannot but prove an inestimable library of divinity to every candidate for holy orders.

The Bishop took part against the ministry during
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the discussions on the commercial treaty with France; and at the time of the King's illness, he voted with those Lords who considered the Prince of Wales as having an absolute right to an unqualified assumption of the Regency. As the see of St. Asaph was then vacant by the death of the worthy Dr. Shipley, some persons were disposed to think that Bishop W. had his eye upon a translation thither. The King, however, recovered; the Regency, of course, fell to the ground; and the bishopric of St. Asaph was filled by Dr. Halifax.

In June, 1791, the Bishop delivered a charge to his clergy, in which he took occasion to touch upon the great revolution which had recently taken place in France, and to advert to the state of things at home, chiefly with respect to the condition of the church, and the pretensions of dissenters. Some of his hearers took notes of his lordship's discourse, copies of which were not only circulated with great industry throughout the diocese, but spread over all parts of the principality, and even reached Lambeth. Alarmed at the intention evidently manifested by this mode of circulation, he lost no time in publishing a faithful copy of his charge, which completely did away the evil designs of his enemies.

In the course of the present eventful contest, his lordship has exhibited himself, in general, the steady advocate of pacific measures; and he has made some admirable and very impressive speeches

in the House of Lords, on the necessity of adopting a conciliatory spirit.

But one of the best services which he ever rendered to the public, was by counteracting the poisonous principles of the author of "The Age of Reason," by "An Apology for the Bible, in a Series of Letters, addressed to the Author of that Work," in 1796. This has, doubtless, been of infinite service in maintaining the cause of truth; as it is written in a popular manner, and with a dignity of expression, and power of argument, most admirably adapted to impress the mind with that respectful seriousness which is so necessary to produce a rational conviction.

However, it must be lamented, that the Bishop has given some advantage to the infidels, by passing over in silence certain parts of the Bible objected to by them. From that silence much has been inferred; and it certainly would have been more noble, and in fact more prudent, to have expressed his free opinion concerning those passages.

At the beginning of the present year, his lordship printed a very seasonable and animated "Address to the People of Great Britain." In this performance, the Bishop waves discussing the merits or demerits of the war, as to its origin. He considers the nation as reduced to the alternative either of an absolute submission to the enemy, or a vigorous prosecution of the contest. Preferring the latter to the former, he pleads for great sacrifices,

sacrifices, and calls upon his countrymen to make very strenuous exertions.

Every body allowed this address to possess great merit as a composition; but many who have made financial politics their study, conceived that the Bishop had gone out of his depth; while others think, and doubtless with reason, that he has departed from all his former principles.

That such a tract, coming from such a man, should produce replies, is not to be wondered at. The weight of his lordship's character was well known. His popularity was very great; and those who were adverse to the sentiments which he now expressed, were sensible that such sentiments would have a very extensive influence upon the public mind; but the prosecution of two of his lordship's antagonists, has inflicted a deadly wound on the liberty of the press, and thus rendered controversy safe only on one side of the question!

The Bishop is a good public speaker; his action is graceful, his voice full and harmonious, and his delivery chaste and correct.

As a writer he is distinguished by a style plain and neat, but strictly pure, nervous, and argumentative.

As a bishop his character is most excellent; and as far as his influence extends, he hath been uniformly the patron of merit. His family consists of six children; and his chief residence is Colgarth-park, delightfully situated near the lakes in his native county.

Besides

Besides the pieces already mentioned, he hath written: "Richardi Watson, A.M. Coll. Sac. Sanctæ Trin. Soc. et Chemiæ Professoris in Academia Cantabrigensi Institutionum Chemicarum in prelectionibus Academicis explicatum Pars Metallurgica," octavo, 1766. "An Essay on the Subjects of Chymistry, and their general Divisions," octavo, 1771. "A Defence of revealed Religion, in two Sermons preached in the cathedral church of Landaff." "A Charge to the Clergy of that Diocese, in June, 1795." "Sermons and Tracts," one volume, octavo; and a "Charge to his Clergy, in 1798."

A. T.

THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE.

HENRY ERSKINE, the brother of David Earl of Buchan, is supposed to possess a large portion of his genius. He received, in early youth, the advantage of that liberal and literary education which in Scotland is rarely denied even to the meanest yeoman; and has, till of late, been most solicitously bestowed on the children of nobility. The fortune which he inherited was not sufficient to enable him to bury his talents in frivolous idleness, and he chose the practice of the law for his professional pursuit. He was accordingly admitted, when very young, a member of the Scottish *Faculty of Advocates*, and distinguished himself alike at the bar, in the societies
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of his companions, and in those elegant and fashionable assemblies unto which his high birth and personal accomplishments introduced him, by an unrivalled sprightliness of fancy, and quickness of apprehension. When all contended in wit, and sportive humour, the supreme praise scarcely ever failed to be bestowed on Henry Erskine.

The elocution of the Scottish bar, even then, favoured not a little of the unction of Donald Cargill, or George Whitefield. Young Erskine, in his first pleadings, displayed with inimitable felicity a certain grace, liveliness, and ease, which needed only to be heard, to put to shame those vile compositions which had been before admired. Every thing concurred to promise him a most brilliant career. But it was feared, that parts so lively, and success so splendid, might prove fatal, by seducing him into that negligence, and self-conceit, which, alas! too often blight the richest buds of opening genius. The anxiety of his friends, and invidious rivalry of his competitors, were alike ready to suggest that dissipation, frivolity, or petulant self-applause, must soon expose him to be outstripped in his professional career, by the most sober spirited of his brother-advocates; in the same manner as the hare in the fable is said to have been left behind by the snail. The event, however, proved far otherwise.

He had the good sense to perceive that, in order to excel, he must dedicate himself with inflexible ardor and perseverance to the attainment of professional excellence, and acquire, by unremitting practice,

practice, that honourable independence of fortune which was necessary to give due lustre to his talents. In a short time he became an Elder, and a Speaker in the general assembly of the church of Scotland, the best theatre for deliberative eloquence which his native country affords. He vigilantly seized every occasion for the exercise of his abilities, as a lawyer and a pleader; and soon convinced the world that he was determined to become a steady practitioner.

Having obtained in marriage the only daughter of Mr. Fullerton, a lady of a respectable family, and who brought him a very handsome fortune, that event tended happily to confirm him in those habits of assiduity, for which he had begun before to be distinguished.

Every successive year now encreased his employment at the bar, where he was soon accounted, if not the very first, at least in the foremost rank. Eminent as a wit, and an advocate, his political sentiments could not long be a matter of indifference to the circle in which he moved. Like his brother, the Earl of Buchan, he avowed himself a staunch and ardent Whig, and naturally gained the notice and the friendship of the most illustrious votaries of Whiggism, as well in England as in Scotland.

After the conclusion of the American war, when Charles Fox, along with that great political party of which he was the informing and guiding genius, were, for a short time, masters of the energies of
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the British government, Henry Erskine was the man whom they chose as the confidential lawyer of their administration in Scotland. They accordingly hastened to appoint him *Lord Advocate*; and so splendid was his reputation as a lawyer, and so liberal his character as a man of integrity and honour, that the voice even of his political enemies could scarcely refrain from applauding the nomination.

But Fox and his party were quickly driven from the helm; and Erskine was dismissed from his official situation, to make room for one who was, indeed, a very worthy young man, but destitute alike of powerful talents, and juridical experience. This loss, however, could neither degrade the character of Erskine, nor lessen his practice at the bar. He had before been, and he still continued to be, the lawyer, whom, on every great occasion, both parties were anxious to retain as their first counsel.

Upon a vacancy in the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, of which he has since been so shamefully bereft, that respectable body, perhaps the most illustrious juridical corporation in Europe, bestowed the office on Henry Erskine; with an eagerness which seemed to demonstrate, that they conferred equal honour on him and themselves by the choice.

Although a man of wit and talents, he has not been so imprudent as to lavish his honourable gains in a careless profusion of expence, instead of accumulating them for a patrimony to his children.

Neither

Neither did the fatal schism in the Whig party, in consequence of the diversity of sentiments with which the events of the French revolution were beheld in Britain, betray him into any political inconsistency. On the contrary, he still firmly adhered to those principles of freedom, which Fox and himself had been accustomed to consider as the genuine grounds of the British revolution in 1688.

Since the commencement of the present war, a period, during which the collisions of party-spirit have become more fierce and violent than before, various practices, too mean and dishonourable to be worthy of aught but contemptuous oblivion, have been recurred to, in order to hurt the character and diminish the practice of Henry Erskine, by men who could not win his virtue to their side, and who were desirous to diminish that ascendancy to which they could not aspire in the career of generous emulation. But talents, fortune, and character, such as his, may despise calumny, and smile at the impotence of malice. W.

LORD CHARLEMONT.

WHEN high rank is united with great virtues, and both are embellished by learning, taste, and talents, we then see man in his proudest form; we overlook or forget all that is weak, frail, and mortal, in human nature, and look up to him as a being of a superior

superior order. Such a character is the Earl of Charlemont ; a nobleman, on whom, even in times of the most imminent danger, neither turbulence nor slander has dared to cast an aspersión.

Of his lordship's early life, a great part was spent abroad ; charmed with the arts, the climate, and the language of Italy, it was for many years his favourite residence. With the rest of the world, however, he was intimately acquainted ; as at every court which a young nobleman generally visits, he spent more than the usual time. In all, he was respected and beloved ; and he has been heard to say, that when he returned home, there was not a country in Europe in which he was not more known, and had not more of those connexions which sweeten life, than in his native Ireland !

Home, however, his lordship at length returned, at about the age of thirty, and this is said to have been hastened by a disorder contracted, as is supposed, from poison, administered by the jealousy of a woman with whom he had an amorous intercourse. Of this disorder, the malignity had baffled the efficacy of all the medical skill which his lordship found abroad, and it remained for the honour of an Irish physician, if not radically to remove the disease, at least to alleviate its force, and preserve a life which was to be the ornament and pride of his country. The physician in question was the celebrated Dr. Lucas, a man distinguished, not more by the success of his medical exertions in his Lordship's case, than by the zeal and energy which he

he has displayed as a political writer, and a popular representative.

Having thus recovered a moderate share of health by the skill of this Irish patriot, and prescribed for himself a degree of temperance and strictness of regimen which few men would have had the steadiness to observe, his lordship began to think of an heir. Although accustomed to view beauty in its most fascinating forms amidst the brilliancy of courts, the splendour of wealth, and the attractions of polished manners; he did not seek these qualities in a wife. He married, in 1768, a Miss Hickman, a young lady, the daughter of a provincial clergyman, possessed of good sense, and a most amiable disposition; therefore, better chosen than if recommended by high birth, riches, or beauty: in consequence of this marriage, his lordship has several children; the eldest, Francis William, Lord Caulfield, is a young nobleman who it is reasonable to hope, will emulate the virtues of his father.

Lord Charlemont having felt, from his early residence abroad, the mortification of being a stranger in his native country, resolved that his son should have a domestic education. Lord Caulfield was, therefore, educated at the college of Dublin, where he distinguished himself not more for the possession of a sound and masculine understanding, than for precocious industry, and mild, though somewhat reserved, manners.

From the moment in which Lord Charlemont first embarked in public life, he has invariably promoted

moted the best interests of the country. He affected not, however, in any instance, that popularity which follows rather the shewy and insincere professions of the demagogue, than the wise and well-judged measures of the disinterested statesman who serves his country more from a motive of duty than a thirst of fame. With him, patriotism was a virtue which he practised for its own sake, and without attention to any consequences, except the approbation of his own mind, and a strict attention to the public welfare.

That his political conduct has uniformly resulted from the purest motives, nothing, perhaps, could more strongly prove, than the manner in which his borough of Charlemont has been represented. Though his lordship does not possess wealth sufficient to render the septennial receipt of 4000*l.* (the usual price for two mis-representatives!) an object of no importance, yet in no one instance has he yielded to the impulse of venality; for he has never sold to the highest bidder, the office of legislator for his country! In the representatives of his borough, his lordship required only talents, and virtue; and it has been his peculiar good fortune to have always selected men eminently possessed of both.

Among those who have sat for Charlemont since it fell into his lordship's hands, Mr. Grattan is the most conspicuous; and it was the member for this borough who wrought the independence of Ireland. In the House of Peers, his lordship contributed to that great event, if not by his elo-

quence (for he is not a public speaker), at least by his vote, his influence, and his example.

These virtues and services of Lord Charlemont were neither unobserved nor unrewarded by the public. He was accordingly raised by the unanimous voice of the people, more fully and faithfully expressed than it had been on any former occasion, to the most honourable situation which it was in their power to bestow, that of commander-in-chief of an army self-appointed, and self-paid, consisting of 80,000 freemen, including all the gentry and the nobility of the kingdom. To this command of the Old Volunteer army of Ireland, he was for several years successively elected; nor did the relation between that extraordinary body of men and his lordship cease, until a difference of political opinion had arisen, which induced him to resign. That difference arose on the question of admitting the Catholics to participate in the power of the state. The idea was first broached in an address from the volunteers of Ulster to his lordship, at a time when they had been reviewed by him in the neighbourhood of Belfast. He, in very plain, but very polite and respectful terms, expressed, in his answer, his difference of opinion on that question. A discordance of sentiment on a point of such moment, must have been fatal to that cordiality of affection which had alone reconciled him to the troublesome, though highly honourable, situation to which he had been raised; he therefore, shortly afterwards, resigned his command; and govern-
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ment having, for some time before, withdrawn its countenance from the volunteer army, it gradually dwindled into insignificance.

That his lordship was either morally or politically correct, in an opinion which tended to perpetuate political incapacities on account of religious tenets, would, perhaps, be difficult to prove; but that he acted on that occasion, as on all others, rather from a consciousness of right, than a view to popular applause, cannot be doubted, for to his popularity nothing at that time could have been so fatal. There was, however, something in his character which disarmed political invective, even while aggravated by religious animosity. The most virulent of those who blamed his conduct seemed to hesitate in calling him a bigot.

Of a reform in the representation his lordship has been long a friend, and was among the first of those noblemen and gentlemen, who, when the question was agitated, and the great difficulty appeared to be, how individuals should be satisfied for the annihilation of their property, made an offer of a voluntary surrender of their boroughs to the public.

On the question of the regency, too, he adopted that side which alone was thought compatible with the independence of Ireland. He was one of those, who, in opposition to the partizans of Mr. Pitt, asserted the right of that kingdom to appoint its own regent; and as they constituted a majority in the two Houses, they accordingly offered the re-

gency to the heir apparent. For this, and some other political offences, he was shortly afterwards removed from the government of the county of Armagh, an office to which he might be almost said to have an hereditary right.

In a mind like that of his lordship, cultivated, vigorous, and pure, error is seldom a plant of perennial growth. The opinion which he so honestly entertained, and so boldly avowed to the volunteer army of 1784, he seems to have since changed for those of a more liberal complexion, as he has of late supported the Catholic claim to the elective franchise, which parliament acceded to in 1796, and is at present an advocate for what is called *Catholic emancipation*.

Of that system of coercion which preceded the late insurrection in Ireland;—of the burning of villages; hanging their inhabitants; transporting persons suspected, without trial; strangling and whipping to extort confession; and billeting the military at free quarters, in districts in which individuals had been disorderly;—his lordship has been uniformly the declared enemy. He, therefore, was one of the very few who supported Lord Moira in his parliamentary reprobation of these measures, and in recommending those of peace and conciliation. Nothing, however, can be more remote from his character, than that of a factious man, or a systematic oppositionist. He has supported Great Britain in the war, merely because Great Britain was engaged in it, without any rela-
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tion to the abstract merit of the contest; and he has acceded cheerfully to every law, and every measure, which the government thought necessary, against the assault of foreign force, or domestic disaffection.

Unexceptionable, however, as Lord Charlemont's political conduct has been, it is not as a politician that he is exclusively entitled to our regard. He is more highly estimable, perhaps, as a man of taste and literature. As a general scholar, he has not his equal in the Irish peerage. Possessing a respectable knowledge of the learned languages, he is also intimately acquainted with those of modern Europe, particularly the Italian, in which he is an adept. To his love of letters, Ireland owes, in a great measure, the establishment of the only literary society (except the university) which she possesses, namely, the Royal Irish Academy, which was incorporated, by royal charter, in 1786, and of which his lordship has, since its foundation, been annually elected president. Of this office, he discharges the duties *con amore*, constantly attending its meetings, unless when ill health prevents, presiding with a father's care over its concerns, and occasionally contributing to fill the pages of its Transactions. In these volumes his lordship has published three essays, which are highly respectable; one on a contested passage in Herodotus; another on an ancient custom at Mityline, with considerations on its origin; and a third on the antiquity of the woollen manu-

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facture in Ireland, which he has proved from some passages in the Italian poets.

These, however, constitute but a small part of what his lordship has written. To some of his friends he has shewn, at various times, materials for larger works, with which it is to be feared, the public will not be favoured during his life; and they will, probably, be left to the mercy of a posthumous editor.

Among the lovers and the judges of the fine arts, he holds a very conspicuous rank. At his house in Rutland-square, Dublin, is to be seen a most respectable collection of the great masters in painting and sculpture, both ancient and modern; and of his taste in architecture, his temple of Marino, within a couple of miles of the metropolis, is a beautiful specimen.

In parliament he has never been a speaker; he seems to want nerves for an orator, and to be solicitous rather of the pleasures of study, than of those raptures which result from the involuntary bursts of an applauding auditory. In conversation he is communicative, affable, and cheerful, in an extraordinary degree; equally apt to catch as to impart satisfaction: nor is it the frippery of fancy which escapes him; the effusions of his full mind flow like the waters of a deep river, at once placid and majestic, uniform and profound.

Of his time he is remarkably economical; every hour has its allotted occupation, nor is this arrangement varied but on occasions of considerable moment.

moment. So regular is he even in his rides, that you might ascertain the time of the day to a minute by the spot on which you find him. His figure is exceedingly venerable, and striking. Upwards of sixty, his long grey hairs, and bending form, give him the appearance of much greater age, while the placidity and strength of his countenance irresistibly impress the idea, that wisdom and virtue have been the companions of his life. It is a remarkable circumstance, that the precarious state of his health, since his partial recovery from the disaster of his youth, has made it necessary for him to use the cold bath throughout the year; and even in the depth of the severest winter, he has not dared to intermit the practice.

HENRY GRATTAN.

HENRY GRATTAN was born in the capital of Ireland, about the year 1751. His father, an eminent barrister, though possessing considerable talents, and deriving a competent share of practice from the good opinion entertained of his skill and integrity by the citizens of Dublin, yet never rose to any high legal situation. The Recordership of the city, a place at that time worth about 600*l.* *per annum*, and to which the corporation elect, was the only office he ever filled. To wealth, accumulated by the industry or the success of his ancestors, Henry, therefore, could not look; he was accord-

ingly taught early to depend for his future fame and fortune on his own exertions.

At the usual time he was entered a student of Trinity college, Dublin, where he was soon distinguished as the powerful competitor of two class-fellows, whose good fortune and talents have since raised them to the highest situations in the state, Mr. Fitzgibbon, late Chancellor of Ireland, and Mr. Forster, the late Speaker of the House of Commons.

Of some of the most shining characters which the Dublin university has given to the world, it has been observed, that during their residence in that seminary their talents were not exercised, or their powers known: Mr. Edmund Burke exhibits one memorable instance in behalf of this assertion: but in respect to Mr. G. and his celebrated contemporaries, that collision which results from a rivalry of acquirements and talents, called forth a full exertion of the mental faculties, and they were therefore distinguished as men possessing first-rate parts, before they were called to exhibit them on the theatre of life. After taking a degree, Mr. G. was, in 1772, called to the Irish bar, and for a few years attended the four courts with an empty bag, and a mind too elastic to be confined to the forms of pleading, and too liberal to be occupied by the pursuits of a mere lawyer.

Disgusted at last with a profession, in which he perceived he would never rise but by habits to which he could not crouch; he retired, not wealthy, but

but possessing from his father, who was now dead, a patrimony, which, with economy, might have secured him independence. It was not long before he was made known to Lord Charlemont, who had for some time returned to Ireland. By his lordship, who has always shewn equal sagacity in discovering and zeal in promoting genius, he was returned to parliament for his borough of Charlemont. Entering into the legislature under such auspices, it was natural to expect that Mr. G. would become the advocate of his then suffering and dependent country. Ireland, indeed, at that time, was in a state of perfect humiliation, being considered merely as a province to the sister country.

Her legislature was a petty council, incapable of originating laws; and her courts of justice subordinate to those of England, and incompetent to a final decision: destitute of foreign commerce, from which she had been excluded by British monopoly; her manufactures were crushed by the weight of British competition, and the industry of her people checked from want of encouragement: in short, discontent, bankruptcy, and wretchedness, covered the face of the country.

To evils of such magnitude, and which the calamities brought on by the unfortunate contest with America greatly aggravated; the narrow policy of the times was applying petty palliatives. Subscriptions were collected, to keep the artificers from famishing; associations were formed, to wear only domestic manufactures; and parliament itself looked

ed no further than to alleviate the pressure of the immediate evil. Mr. G. however, whose mind was formed to embrace something beyond present objects; who was accustomed to trace effects to their causes, and to look forward to future consequences; perceived, that the root of those calamities was not a temporary stagnation of trade from the American war, but rather to be found in the unjust restraints imposed by Great Britain on the exertions of the country; and that to attempt their cure by temporary expedients, would be to roll up the stone of Sisyphus.

He was the first, therefore, who had the boldness and the wisdom to urge the legislature to complain of those restraints; his efforts were seconded by the unanimous voice of the country; and such was the efficacy of a political truth, thus urged, and thus supported, that even the whole force of British influence was found unequal to resist it. The Irish legislature adopted, and decreed the sentiment; and after some hesitation on the part of the British parliament, the commerce of Ireland was, in part, opened to her children. A temporary gleam of satisfaction was shed over the country by this *concession*, as it was called, of the British parliament: for so accustomed had the people been to exclusion, to penalties, and restriction, that a relaxation or suspension of any of these was looked on as the conferring of a positive benefit, rather than the cessation of an actual injury.

Mr. G.'s name was now become an object of adoration

adoration to the people, and by the volunteer associations, which the dangers of the war had called forth, he was looked up to with peculiar respect. In this state of affairs, the re-action of popularity upon patriotism seemed to impart new energy to his mind.

Mr. G. continued to exert himself with indefatigable assiduity in the senate, and by leading the mind of the public, and even of the legislature itself, to the consideration of national rights, and the actual political situation of their common country with respect to England, he was clearing the way for that measure which he meditated—a declaration of the legislature in favour of national independence.

By obtaining freedom of commerce for the country, he had already, indeed, done much toward the attainment of the great object; for he had removed the key-stone of the arch, and thus weakened the cohesion of the whole fabric:—he had taught the people to think, and the legislature to feel its own power;—he had introduced a spirit of innovation upon the old system of British domination; and the vigour with which innovations on such systems are opposed, proves their malign efficacy. Mr. G. therefore, who observed with pleasure, no doubt, the operation of those causes on the public mind, endeavoured by an industrious exertion of oratorical powers in the senate, to increase their force, and second their effect. His eloquence, of a cast more warm and animated than
either

either parliament or the people had usually felt, and exerted upon subjects respecting which the human mind is susceptible of the greatest degree of enthusiastic fervor, was gratified by complete success. Directed by a sagacious understanding, which could catch the moment propitious to exertion, and proportion its zeal to its object, his parliamentary speeches taught a subjugated nation to pant for independence; while the public voice, highly animated by the subject, and seconded by the loud assent of 80,000 men in arms (for to so many did the volunteer associations amount!) kindled even in the cold bosom of parliament itself, a desire to assert its dignity, and rescue its authority from the gripe of British usurpation.

Of this sentiment, so novel in an Irish legislature, that had long forgotten the pride of independence—of this energy, which arising from extrinsic circumstances, rather than a native and internal principle of virtue, was therefore likely soon to vanish, when those circumstances should cease to exist—Mr. G. availed himself; he caught, as he inspired, the generous flame; and by one of those extraordinary displays of impassioned eloquence, to which even the eloquent cannot rise, but when a momentous object seems to furnish adequate powers, he gave rise to the celebrated declaration, that the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland only, could make laws to bind Ireland, in any case whatsoever.

Mr. Grattan's popularity was now at its *acmé*.

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The achievement of a nation's independence by an individual, unaided by any force or any influence but that which genius and which truth afford, was considered as the result of talents and of virtue almost above the lot of humanity. The legislature itself seemed for once to participate in the feelings of the people, for in the fervor of admiration, it was proposed that £.100,000 should be voted him, as a mark of approbation.

In its full extent, this proposition was not adopted, for on a subsequent sitting, when the vote was before the Committee, they reduced it, at the express instance of his own particular friends, to £.50,000; to that amount, however, the grant was confirmed, and Mr. G. actually received the money*.

The declaration of rights of the Irish legislature, however unwelcome it must have been to the minister and parliament of England, was received here with that kind of placid acquiescence with which we assent to what is inevitable. A negotiation was immediately instituted between the two nations, which terminated in the repeal of the 6th of Geo. I. the act by which the British Parliament declared its right to bind Ireland by British statutes.

On the subject of this repeal, a question arose, which, suspended, for a considerable time, Mr.

* This money has not been applied solely to his own use, for we could record many exalted instances of generosity, one, in particular, exerted towards a meritorious artist, whom he sent abroad at his own expence.

G's.

G's. popularity. It was contended by Mr. Flood, a gentleman, who, though he did not originate the measure of declaring the legislative independence of the country, yet co-operated to promote it, that as the 6th of Geo. I. was an act only declaratory of a right, asserted by the British Parliament to have been vested in it prior to the enactment of that statute, the "simple repeal" of the statute did not involve a renunciation of the right; and he insisted, that, notwithstanding that repeal, Great Britain might, and from her former conduct towards Ireland probably would, resume the exercise of it. He therefore advised the legislature to demand of the British parliament, a full and explicit renunciation of all claim in future to bind Ireland. This opinion was adopted by the people; and carrying with it all the force which reason or experience can give to a proposition in politics, met very powerful support even in both houses of parliament. Mr. Grattan, whose sagacity this objection to a simple repeal had eluded, and who, from a principle of vanity, perhaps, which has its strong hold even in minds of the first class, affected the exclusive honour of originating and conducting the emancipation of his country, applied all his power of reason, of sophistry, and of eloquence, to combat this doctrine of Mr. Flood.

He contended, that the repeal of a declaratory law, accompanied by such circumstances as had attended this, must be considered, and would by
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the world be considered, as implying a renunciation of the right; but, even if it were not so, and that Great Britain should be so unjust and impolitic as to resume the right, when she should recover means to support it by power, an explicit renunciation would be but a slender defence against injustice, supported by force; that in such circumstances, the true security of the people would consist, not in an act of parliament, but in that patriotic energy which would enable them to defend, as it had already enabled them to assert, their independence; and that to force Great Britain, in this her hour of distress, to confess herself an usurper, by an express renunciation of a right which she had exercised, would be as ungenerous to her, as it would be useless to Ireland.

With the people these arguments had no weight, and in the senate they were borne down by the irresistible force of truth and experience, seconded by the powerful and logical eloquence of Mr. Flood. In popular estimation, indeed, Mr. G's, character had been falling for some time; it was certain he had received the money which parliament had voted him; and it was insinuated, that for the prompt payment of it, and other considerations, he had engaged with administration to counteract the independence which his former exertions had obtained. But in such insinuations there is the best reason to believe there was not even a shadow of truth. It is, however, certain, that in the contest with Mr. Flood, on the efficiency

ency of a simple repeal, Mr. G. not only reasoned weakly, but that in many instances, connected with that dispute, he acted intemperately. On one occasion particularly, he pronounced a philippic against Mr. Flood, which was less distinguished by genius and point, than by acerbity and virulence. His antagonist replied, perhaps in a style too much like that of his opponent. Both parties immediately left the House of Commons, but were prevented from terminating the contest in a duel, by being instantly put under arrest, and bound in a large sum to keep the peace. Mr. Flood, in the course of the next evening, pronounced one of his best speeches, containing a history and defence of his former political life, which had been on the preceding night violently arraigned by Mr. Grattan. Mr. G. endeavoured to reply, but was prevented by the clamours of the house.

Frustrated in the hope of carrying on exclusively to its completion, a revolution (for such it may be called) which he had so successfully and honourably commenced, and finding the tide of popularity now running strong against him, Mr. G. seems for some time to have completely secluded himself from politics. During this interval, he married a lady of the name of Fitzgerald, not, however, as the name would indicate, of the Leinster family, but one who possessed qualities much more valuable than those of high birth or great connexions, for she is a woman of the most angelic disposition, and of whom Mr. G. remains, after a lapse of so many

many years, what he had been in a very high degree before his marriage, an enamoured lover.

Though Mr. G. during this period, did not take an active part in political affairs, he remained still in parliament, and voted as his conscience bade, sometimes with, and sometimes against the minister. Towards the close of the year 1785, when, under cover of a commercial arrangement, it was supposed a design had been formed by the British ministry to subvert the newly-acquired independence of the Irish parliament, we find him again alert and vigilant at his post. Among the celebrated proposals which were then offered to the House of Commons in Ireland, by an agent of the crown, and which are still remembered and execrated in that country by the name of "Ord's Propositions," one was, "that the Parliament of Ireland, in consideration of being admitted to participate equally with Great Britain in all commercial advantages, should, from time to time, *adopt* and *enact* all such acts of the British Parliament as should relate to the regulation or management of her commerce," &c. This, it was contended, would sink the Parliament of Ireland into a mere register to the British Legislature. Whether or not this would really be the case, or whether there was any thing unreasonable in stipulating, that the country which was admitted to share in the commerce of another, should adopt the same commercial regulations; it is certain, that this opinion was entertained not only by the

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public

public in general, but by some of the ablest men in both Houses, and among them by Mr. G. who gave to the whole system the most unqualified and strenuous opposition. This opposition proved successful, the measure was relinquished, and Mr. G. thenceforward continued to resist, with the most zealous and persevering firmness, what he called the principles of the "Old Court;" principles which he looked on as tending to degrade Ireland, by corruption and influence, to the same despicable and miserable state in which she had been reduced previously to the year 1783.

From this period, we find Mr. G. an active leader of the country party in the House of Commons; loved by the people, and dreaded by the cabinet. His popularity, which had so suddenly sunk, on his acceptance of the parliamentary boon, and his support of the simple repeal, had now risen to its former level; and the nation found, that, notwithstanding one unfortunate deviation, he was still an upright and independent senator. Among the various measures which now occupied his attention, was the establishment of a provision for the clergy, independent of tythes. For many years the peasantry of the south of Ireland, who were exclusively Catholics, had been discontented, not so much with the payment of tythes to Protestant pastors, as with the rigid and oppressive manner in which they had been collected by proctors and tythe-farmers. That portion of the country had been kept, by this cause, for almost half a century

a century in disturbance ; and, in some instances, it had affected the province of Ulster. Mr. G. proposed a measure which would have removed every discontent, and at the same time have secured a provision for the clergy, equal to that which they then possessed, easy and certain to them, and to the peasantry neither oppressive nor unpleasant. This plan was, however, opposed by the collective influence of the established church, and of course rejected by the legislature. Another measure which he proposed to Parliament about the same time, viz. a bill to promote the improvement of barren land, by exempting reclaimed ground from the payment of tythe, for seven years—was but little calculated to restore the favour of the priesthood ; they accordingly resisted and defeated the project, and continued thenceforward to hate, if not to calumniate, its author.

The Whig-club had for some time become a political body of considerable consideration. Mr. G. was one of the first, if not the very first member, in point of talent and popularity. At his instance it was, that the members who had been, since its institution, the advocates of a liberal system, which they considered necessary to the security of the constitution, and independence of the country, came now to a resolution, by which they publicly pledged themselves never to accept offices under any administration, which should not concede certain measures to the people:—these consisted principally of a pension-bill, a bill to

make the great officers of the crown responsible for their advice and measures, another to prevent revenue officers from voting at elections, a place-bill, &c. This explicit declaration of a sincere and fixed purpose respecting these essential subjects, gave the society much weight with the public, and enabled them, after a long opposition on the part of administration, to effect their purpose; a pension-bill, a plea-bill, a responsibility-bill, were at last yielded by the court party, as concessions of the first importance, though they had for so many years resisted them as unnecessary and unwise.

The celebrity which Mr. G. had attained by his opposition to Mr. Orde's system, and his subsequent exertions in the popular cause, procured for him, in the year 1790, an honourable and easy election, as representative for the metropolis.

During the existence of the parliament which then commenced, there occurred, however, a question, on which Mr. G. and a very considerable proportion of his constituents materially differed; this was, the claim of the Catholics to the elective franchise. From his first entrance into parliament, with a mind as liberal as it was enlightened, he had always been the decided friend of every measure which tended to abolish those political distinctions, which were founded only on a difference of religious tenets; for he conceived that such distinctions had retarded the progress of the country towards civilization and industry.

The corporation of the city of Dublin, on the
contrary,

contrary, prone, by situation and habit, to religious bigotry, looked on the Catholics at once with suspicion and contempt. Enjoying a monopoly of municipal honour and emoluments, by the exclusion of all who professed a different faith, from the franchises of the capital, they considered every attempt to restore them to those franchises as an attack on their property, or a violation of their rights. Besides these causes, the administration had, by some recent institutions, obtained a paramount influence in the corporation; and to perpetuate religious distinctions, which had hitherto kept Ireland weak, was still the court policy. This influence, therefore, operating in conjunction with other causes, rendered the municipal officers of Dublin incapable of participating in that increased liberality of sentiment which had now every where begun to dissipate prejudice, and dispel bigotry. On the question of admitting the Catholics to the privileges of the constitution, the corporation and Mr. G. accordingly differed; and had not circumstances occurred which prevented him from becoming again a candidate for the capital, there was no chance of his being a second time elected its representative.

The war with France had now taken place; Mr. Grattan approved of it, or rather he affected to consider Ireland as bound, with all its might, to assist Great Britain when once engaged in the contest. This, at least, was the opinion entertained by him during the short administration of

Lord Fitzwilliam; and in this opinion he remained, until he found that the continuation of hostilities threatened the empire with ruin, either from the incapacity of those by whom it was conducted, or the murmurs which it occasioned. In Ireland, indeed, discontent had been spreading with incalculable velocity, and deepening as it spread. The pertinacity and insolence with which administration had rejected the petitions of the Catholics, and the rapidity and inconsistency with which they granted the prayer of those petitions, at the first suggestion of the British cabinet; the obstinacy with which they refused ever to hear of a reform, the advocates of which were blackened with abuse, and calumniated as traitors; the enormous increase of court-influence, by the shameless and wanton increase of sinecure offices, the lavish profusion of titles; and above all, the trick which it was supposed the British cabinet had played off on Ireland, by sending Lord Fitzwilliam with concessions which were revoked when the supply was voted; all these causes had already generated a degree of discontent in the country, of which no instance had been known in former times.

The celebrated Society of United Irishmen, who associated (whatever their real principles might have been) under the pretext of reform, derived from these discontents new vigour: they had disseminated their principles through the island, and

and they were already embraced, by a great portion of the population of the country.

Mr. G. perceiving the danger in which the state was involved by this system of ministers, constantly resisted it with all his power. He was seconded by a small, but active and able opposition, which left no exertion untried to reconcile the court and the country, by advising measures which would have ranged every moderate and good man on the side of parliament and the throne, and thus have weakened the republican and French factions, which had now become so powerful. These efforts were, unfortunately, not successful. Instead of conciliating, administration continued to exasperate; and scorning to resort to lenitives, applied the most powerful caustics: for every measure of moderation, or concession, which was proposed by Mr. G. and his party, one of severity and coercion was substituted, until the cabinet ultimately arrived at military law, and free quarters! At that critical moment, Mr. G. who could no longer hope, by his presence in the senate, to serve his country, seceded; and, at the close of the parliament, published a very eloquent and spirited address to his former constituents, accounting for his past conduct, and formally declining to accept of a seat in the legislature.

Such are the leading facts which have marked the life of one who, whatever may be thought of him by his opponents, while the fever of politics continues to agitate the human mind, will have

his merits and defects examined fairly by posterity, and, in all probability, be acknowledged by them as a great man.

Of his private life there is but little generally known, because little has occurred in it to interest attention. It has passed on in a smooth manner, marked equally by the practice of every conjugal and domestic virtue. If there be any of his good qualities which verge on the confines of vice, it is his economy, of which it has been asserted, that it approaches towards penuriousness, if it does not reach that point. It has been often said, that though he received, in early life, from the liberality of his country, a very handsome addition to his patrimony, he never displayed, either in private or public, a munificent disposition *. But it should be remembered, that the fortune which Mr. G. obtained then, constituted nearly the whole of his acquisitions: he practised in no profession, he accepted no place, and he soon saw a young family rising around him, for which the whole was not a very ample provision: for he has four children; the eldest a boy of fifteen years of age.

In private life, Mr. G. displays manners that are in a high degree pleasing. Wit he seems not to possess, and he has a cast of mind too lofty for humour; but if he does not "set the table in a

* It is but candid here to state, in opposition to the above, that Mr. G. has patronised and assisted a painter of great expectation, now in Italy, who had no other claims on his generosity, than his merit, his youth, and his poverty.

roar," or dazzle with the radiance of fancy, he diffuses over the convivial hour the mild charms of good-humour, and softens society with unassuming gentleness.

In conversation he appears to great advantage; for, with a mind well stored with useful learning, and conversant on every topic which occurs, he has a felicity of expression, which communicates his meaning in the most concise and impressive manner: he is not argumentative, but when an argument is instituted, his opinions are urged with great modesty, but with great strength, and if victor in the contest, he generously relinquishes the field to the vanquished.

Of Mr. G's political opinions, the complexion may be known from the measures which he has supported, and the tenor of his parliamentary conduct. As they have struck the mind of the writer, they appear to be strongly *monarchical*, and *democratical* only so far as our constitution requires them to be; at the same time leaning towards a perpetuity of union between the two countries, and yet decidedly adverse to the existence of any British influence in Ireland, distinct from that which the union of the two crowns on the head of a British prince renders indispensable. That he should, therefore, be connected with a society of men whose aim was separation from England, and the establishment of an Irish republic, seems, in the highest degree, improbable. The lustre of his name, however, suffered a temporary eclipse; and
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so short lived is municipal gratitude, that it was actually expunged from a city which he has rendered flourishing *, at the very same time that it was struck from the list of privy-counsellors †.

As a public speaker, Mr. G. ranks in the highest class. In his orations there is a grandeur which marks a mind of superior order, and enforces at once, reverence and admiration. On every subject which he treats, he throws a radiance that enlightens without dazzling; and while it assists the judgment, delights the imagination. His style is always peculiar, for it varies its character with the occasion. At one time close and energetic, it concentrates the force of his argument, and compels conviction; at another, diffuse, lofty, and magnificent, it applies itself to every faculty of the mind, charms our fancy, influences our will, and convinces our understanding. At all times his manner is animated with a pleasing warmth, which renders it impossible to hear him without interest; but on some occasions he exerts a power which is irresistible. Prostitution, under its influence, forgets for a moment the voice of the minister, and

* *Cork, Sept. 29.*—"By order of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Common-Council of the city of Cork, the public are desired to take notice, that the street hitherto named *Grattan-street*, is, in future, to be called *Duncan-street*."

† Since the agitation of the important question respecting an Union, the enemies of Mr. G. seem to have been ashamed of their conduct towards him; and he actually, at this moment, bids fair to be as popular as ever.

place,

place, pension, and peerage, have but a feeble hold even of the most degenerate.

To the excellence of his style he does not add the graces of action; it is forcible, indeed, and sometimes expressive, but it is seldom elegant, and never pleasing. To invective, to which Mr. G. has sometimes deigned to have recourse, his manner is better adapted than to the sedateness of cool disquisition; and yet invective is not that in which he principally excels: he is more fitted by nature, and happily the situation he has filled has more frequently called him, to defend the rights of nations, and to pourtray the hopes, the fears, the expectations of a magnanimous people, than to descend to a wordy contest with individuals; though, when that contest has been instituted, the weapons of Mr. G. have been found sharp, if not polished, and capable of inflicting wounds which refused to be healed. W.

SIR WILLIAM SYDNEY SMITH.

THE great Admiral Howard, who lived in the reign of King Henry the eighth, was wont to say, that "a certain portion of madness was necessary to enter into the composition of an English seaman." We know not whether this assertion ought to be admitted in its full extent; yet the fact is, that some of our most celebrated naval characters have obtained

obtained renown for deeds which appear to cold-blooded men to favour of desperation, as well as of valour.

It is not our intention to detract from any man's merits, who has been, or is now engaged in the service of his country, either by sea or land ; but we are forced to say, that our admiration is not so much excited by those dazzling exploits which please the populace, as by the more steady and extensive operations of such magnanimous, but prudent commanders, who are rather bent upon general good, than romantic adventures. Each, however, has his portion of merit ; and he who hazards his person with alacrity, in behalf of the country for which he fights, must always claim our respect.

Sir William Sydney Smith was born in the metropolis, A.D. 1764. His * father was a Captain in the army, and his mother the daughter of Mr.

* Captain Smith was *aide-de-camp* to Lord George Germaine, at the battle of Minden, and was examined as an evidence on his trial. His testimony on that occasion is said to have saved the life of his protector.

Having encountered some obloquy, in consequence of his zeal, the Duke of Dorset, who was greatly attached to his younger son, Lord George, very properly took captain S. into favour ; and, among other gifts, presented him with a grant of land at the foot of Dover-castle, on which he has built a whimsical house. Some adjoining apartments are excavated from the rock, and the kitchen, &c. are roofed with boats. There is a tower, called " Sir Sydney's look-out ;" and the writer of this is informed, that his father, who is a staunch methodist, has lately erected a chapel there.

Wilkinson,

Wilkinson, a merchant of great eminence in the city. This match was so hostile to Mr. Wilkinson's sentiments, that he not only discarded Mrs. Smith in his life-time, but at his death left his whole fortune, which was very considerable, to his other daughter, now Lady Camelford.

The subject of the present notice was educated under Dr. Knox, the truly able and learned master of Tunbridge-school; and at an early age was put on board a man-of-war, which profession he had adopted for himself. He rose rapidly, and at the age of sixteen was fifth lieutenant of the *Alcide* of seventy-four guns; he was made post-captain in 1783, at which time the restoration of peace prevented him from exercising his active spirit in the service of his country.

When the war broke out between Russia and Sweden in the year 1788, Captain Smith obtained permission from the English government to enter into the navy of the latter power, in which he was honoured with a distinguished command.

During this contest, he gave such satisfaction to the court of Sweden by his important services, that the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him; which, however, has not been confirmed by his own sovereign.

On the termination of that war, he returned to his native country, and soon after set out on his travels through various parts of Europe.

When hostilities broke out between England and France he was in Italy; and on Lord Hood's
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getting possession of Toulon, Captain Smith went thither and volunteered on board the British fleet. In the subsequent evacuation of that place, he was entrusted with the dangerous, but important, service, of setting fire to the ships, dock-yards, and arsenal, which he performed with such skill, boldness, and success, as to call forth the warmest encomiums from Lord Hood in his account of that transaction to the Admiralty.

On his return to England, he had the command of the Diamond frigate bestowed on him, with which he greatly annoyed the enemy on their own coast, and made several important and valuable captures. Some other vessels were afterwards put under his direction, as commodore; with this little squadron he performed several essential services, particularly in attacking a French convoy at Herqui, where he landed and demolished the fortifications. At one time Sir Sydney went with his single frigate into Brest harbour, and having reconnoitred the state of the enemy's ships, came out without suspicion. He was enabled to do this, by the very fluent manner with which he speaks the French language.

At length, however, his enterprising spirit, unfortunately, brought him into a very disagreeable situation. Being off Havre-de-Grace, April 18, 1796, he captured an armed vessel in the outer-harbour; but the tide making strong up the Seine, she was driven by the force of the current near the forts. When night came on, Sir Sydney, who was determined

mined not to lose his prize, manned and armed his small craft, and went with them to bring her off. He succeeded in boarding her, and was towing her down the river, when an alarm was given, and several gun-boats proceeded to cut the vessel off. After an obstinate resistance, Sir Sydney was at length taken, together with sixteen of his crew, and three of his officers.

The French were happy at having gained possession of one who had been so great an eye-sore to them, and conveyed him to the capital, where he was kept in close confinement, without ever being suffered to be at large upon his parole. The English government, desirous of his release, sent over Capt. Bergeret, commander of *La Verginie*, in July following, to be exchanged for him ; but the directory refusing to accede to the terms, the French Captain returned, saying, "he preferred death to dishonour." It was actually one time in contemplation to try Sir Sydney as a spy and incendiary, to which the directory were led in consequence of his conduct at Toulon !

After a long and most rigid confinement, he at length effected his escape, April 24, 1798, from Paris, and arrived in London May 6th following. The manner in which this occurred, was represented in the papers as most extraordinary, and little short of miraculous. It was stated, that as the officers were conveying him from one prison to another, a crowd in the street occasioned the carriage to stop, on which some one opened the door, and drew Sir Sydney out, who passed unmolested, through

through the people, and got into the suburbs; whence, by a circuitous course, with an emigrant gentleman, he arrived on the sea-coast, where they took to an open boat; and after being at sea for some considerable time, were picked up by a British frigate, which landed him and his companion in Old England. It is not unlikely that the French government took this curious method of releasing him; for it is hardly within the line of probability that such a man should have escaped from his keepers in one of the public streets of Paris, and that too in open day, without the connivance of persons in power.

His being taken at first was the effect of his own imprudence, for certainly there were officers in his ship competent enough to the service of boarding and bringing away a paltry privateer, without the necessity of the captain's going in person. Sir Sydney has since been appointed to the command of *Le Tigre*, a ship of 80 guns, taken from the French; and in which he sailed in the latter end of 1798, to the Mediterranean, and is now at Constantinople.

THE REV. THOMAS HAWEIS, LL.D. AND M.D.

THIS gentleman is entitled to a place in our collection, as well on account of his respectability as a man of letters, as his being if not at the head of, at least greatly respected by, that numerous and highly distinguished class of Christians, commonly called the Calvinistical Methodists.

Dr.

Dr. Haweis is a native of Cornwall, and was educated at the free grammar-school in Truro, where the celebrated Samuel Foote, commonly called the English Aristophanes, was brought up. After receiving a good classical education, he was put apprentice to an eminent surgeon and apothecary in his native place, and served his time with great credit, on account of his fidelity and application.

Mr. Samuel Walker was, at that time, curate of Truro, and young Mr. Haweis was so affected with the preaching and character of that exemplary man, that his whole mind became impressed with the love of religion, and the desire of being a minister of the gospel. His friends were not willing to cross his inclinations, and he was, therefore, permitted to go to the University of Cambridge, where he was entered of Christ's college, and in due course took his degree of LL.B.

Soon after his being admitted to holy orders, he became distinguished as a popular preacher, particularly at Oxford, where he delivered a series of discourses, which, in 1760, he published, under the title of "Evangelical Sermons." Not long after he became assistant to Mr. Madan, at the chapel of the Lock-hospital, and about the same time was appointed chaplain to the Countess of Huntingdon.

While he officiated at the Lock-chapel, a circumstance occurred which made a considerable noise at the time, and brought upon our divine, as well as his friends, much unmerited odium. A gentleman, who usually attended that place of worship,

ship, informed Mr. Madan, that he had a living in his gift, which he wished to bestow upon some minister of evangelical sentiments. Mr. Madan recommended Mr. Haweis, who was surprised at this generosity in a stranger. Some time after his being inducted to the living of Aldwinkle, in Northamptonshire, which he now holds, the patron thought proper to make a demand upon him for the presentation. The matter got into print, much was published on both sides, and those who were prejudiced respecting the body of Christians to whom Mr. H. belonged, exclaimed vehemently against him for his conduct, as well as that of his colleague, Mr. Madan. Time, however, has destroyed this prejudice, and we believe there is no person so uncandid at present, as to admit a thought to his disadvantage, in consequence of this business.

About that period, he published a very useful and judicious commentary upon the scriptures, entitled, "The Evangelical Expofitor," in 2 vols. folio.

Mr. H. had the chief management of Lady Huntingdon's extensive concerns on her death, at which period he found himself nominated by her will one of the principal trustees of her various chapels in town and country*. In 1795, the missionary society commenced, formed upon a plan and scale certainly more adequate to the object, more promising in its appearance, and, as far as it has yet

* He had acted as her Chaplain, for several years, without accepting of any emolument whatever;

gone, more prosperous in its operation, than any other that can be mentioned. This institution equally admits churchmen and dissenters. It is marked, indeed, only by what are called the *evangelical sentiments*: it pays no regard to differences of opinion on the inferior questions of church government, or the manner of public worship; but it admits no missionaries except such as are firmly grounded in the essential doctrines of christianity, particularly the divinity of Christ, and the atonement by his death.

At the first public meeting of this society, held at Spa-fields chapel, Mr. H. preached a very affecting and masterly sermon on the occasion; and, at a subsequent one, he read a memorial, in which he examined the subject with the greatest precision and accuracy, and recommended strongly that the first mission should be to the Friendly Islands, in the South-Sea, which measure was adopted. This sermon and memorial were printed in the collection of the society's papers.

In the course of the same year he obtained, from one of the Scotch universities, the degree of doctor of physic; and lest his motives for so doing should be misunderstood, it may be proper to say, that he often gives his advice *gratis*, and visits poor sick people at their own habitations. Now, as he was originally brought up to the practice of medicine, there was a propriety in his taking a doctor's degree in that faculty, to render him

competent to give his advice, and to attend consultations, in the way of benevolence.

In 1797, he published the life of that eminent and popular divine, Mr. Romaine. This performance does great credit to his talents as a biographer.

The missionary concerns seem to engross his principal attention; and, without doubt, that large and highly honourable society could not have a more able, indefatigable, or faithful adherent. The accounts received from the missionaries at the Marqueses, the Society, and Friendly Islands, are very flattering to those who have formed strong expectations respecting this new attempt to propagate christianity in heathen lands. We understand that the society is not so opulent, in respect to finances, as could be wished, else it would enlarge its sphere of operation, to carry civilization and religion into other dark and uncultivated regions.

Dr. Haweis is still an eloquent and powerful preacher. His style is perspicuous and elegant. He never descends to that coarse method of illustration made use of by some popular preachers, nor does he entertain his auditory with quaint witticisms and ridiculous anecdotes. He has a clear method of reasoning, and seldom launches into the wildness of declamation. As a writer, he possesses great merit, on account of an elegant style, which is at once pious and fervid.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT, &c.

HENRY DUNDAS is a descendant from a younger branch of a family * long eminent among the petty barons of Lothian. During a great part of the century which is now about to expire, his immediate ancestors have been distinguished as the ablest advocates at the Scottish bar: and they have there successively attained to the highest honours and emoluments of the juridical profession. His father, even while a young lawyer, appeared to old President Dalrymple. to excel, in discernment, eloquence, and erudition, all those admired advocates, the Fletchers, Gilmores, Nicholsons, and Lockharts, whom he himself had heard in his younger years. His elder brother, the late Lord President Dundas, after advancing through a very splendid and successful career of practice at the bar, was raised to the first place in the supreme Court of Justice in his native country. And it is still remembered, with what august dignity, what a clear comprehension and quick dispatch of business, what depth of legal erudition and cogency of argument, that eminent judge, for

* The Dundasses of Dundas.

a long series of years, directed the proceedings of the Court of Session.

Henry, a younger son, and by a second marriage, was destined to seek his fortune in some professional pursuit. He, very naturally, chose that in which his family had been so successful. Though very young when he was called to the Scottish bar, he quickly rose to some distinction among the junior class of advocates. His advantages of birth and his personal qualities introduced him, in a favourable manner, to all the gay and fashionable society of the Scottish metropolis : and he was sufficiently disposed to enter ardently into the usual pleasures of the young. But this propensity, instead of unfitting him for business or study, was believed to make his application to both the one and the other, only so much the more lively and vigorous, during the time for which it was bestowed upon them. The *General Assembly* of the Church of Scotland, the only very numerous and popular Court in that part of the island; was regarded as an excellent school of deliberative eloquence : and the young advocates, in general, were, therefore, usually eager to obtain seats, and to try their powers of oratory, in it. No one, however, was ever more favourably listened to, or more admired, in that assembly, than young Dundas ; who exhibited, there, some of the first splendid specimens of that sound and enlightening eloquence, which he was afterwards to exercise in a more illustrious scene of debate.

A marriage

A marriage with the heiress of the estate of Melville, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, brought an useful addition to his *younger-brother's-fortune*, and, in the course of a few years, made him the father of an amiable family of children.

In the progress of his life and practice at the bar, his first habits and character were gradually matured. His sound intelligence, and prompt discernment, as a man of business, obtained to his pleadings the respectful attention of the ablest judges on the bench; and drew a continually increasing number of clients to solicit his assistance, in litigations, as their counsellor and advocate.

It was not in his nature, to confine himself to be a mere plodding lawyer, admirable for nothing but profound juridical erudition. His inclination and ability to adorn the dryness of juridical argument with the not unbecoming elegancies of literature, were such as to procure to him, while he was still very young, the flattering esteem of the late Lord Kaimes,—a man who was extremely studious to apply philosophy and literature to the improvement of jurisprudence. Nor can there be any thing more honourable, either to the prophetic sagacity of Kaimes, or to the fair early promise of the talents of Dundas, than that very elegant and complimentary address in which Lord Kaimes dedicated to his young friend, his excellent work, of which the title is—“*Principles of Equity.*”

Family-interest, and those talents which com-

mand ample employment at the bar, naturally recommend a Scottish lawyer to the favourable notice of the Crown. Mr. Dundas rose, under the administration of the late Lord North, to the office of Lord Advocate for Scotland. He filled this office with such ability, that it seemed rather to derive honour from him, than to confer it upon him. It had been usual for the Lord Advocate for Scotland, to procure, at the same time, a seat in Parliament, as the representative of some Scottish county or burghs†. Mr. Dundas followed the example of his predecessors, in this instance; and thus produced his talents upon a theatre, on which they were quickly to attain the distinction justly due to them.

It has been observed, that even the most eminent orators of the English bar, have rarely, except upon questions of law, been able to command much attention, as speakers, in either of the Houses of Parliament. There is, in truth, in the law of England, and in the practice of the English Courts of Justice, so much of custom not easily to be traced to its foundations in nature and reason, of form, of technical language; all which, the practising lawyer must have mastered, before he can become skilful or eminent in his profession,—but which are considerably remote,—on the one hand, from the philosophical principles of civil and political

† It is natural for the ministers of the Crown to expect, that an office of such dignity and emoluments should yield them a vote in Parliament.

law,—on the other, from the sagacity of a liberal experience in the common affairs of life : that the same advantages of study and experience which make a lawyer able as a pleader, and profound as a counsellor in the laws of England ; will frequently unfit him for the exercise of a popular, deliberative eloquence, in a great legislative assembly ; and render his mind too narrow for the discriminating comprehension of political or civil affairs of great extent and complexity. But, in the practice of the law of Scotland, the appeals to general principle, and to the utilities of life, are much more frequent. The Scottish lawyer is obliged to be more of the philosopher and the man of the world, than the English lawyer,—less of the mere formalist, and of the mechanic inattentive to the ratio of his art. Consequently, the practice, the experience, the habits, of the Scottish lawyer, have a peculiar tendency to prepare him for distinguishing himself as a political orator and a statesman. The practice of the Scottish law will not, indeed, of a blockhead make a great politician ; neither will skill in the laws of England, render a man of an uncommonly acute and vigorous mind, unequal to the duties of a legislator or a minister of state. But, it seems to be exceedingly probable ; that,—of any two men, of equal talents and advantages,—if the one shall spend the first half of his life in the study and practice of the law of Scotland,—while the other dedicates an equal portion of his years to the English law ;

law; and if they shall, at the end of this time, meet as rival orators and statesmen in the House of Commons; the Scottish lawyer will quickly be able to take a more important and leading part in the conduct of its business, than the English one*.

In the case of Mr. DUNDAS, native talents, and a turn of mind naturally adapted for political business, seem to have concurred with the advantages of professional knowledge and professional habits, in order to form the great statesman. His entrance into parliament, was, during the administration of Lord North,—at a time when the difficulties of the government demanded the exercise of extraordinary powers in those who could influence its transactions,—and when the embarrassments of a falling ministry, seemed to promise every thing to the ambition of those who aspired to supplant them.

The true key to the history of the changes and successions of Ministers in Britain, since the æra of the Revolution, is to be found in the secret history of the mysteries of the Whig and the Tory parties. These two parties, in their origin, moulded the very same principles of *public utility* and *private convenience*, attachment to *principle* and reverence for ancient *establishment* and *precedent*, into two

* It is to be observed, that we here speak of *actual*, and not merely *nominal* lawyers. A gentleman may reside in one of the Inns of Court, without narrowing his mind to the study of the law.

different creeds of discordant fashions. Interest, prejudice; contradiction, imitation; the inheritance of estates, friendships, enmities, and modes of thinking; confirmed and perpetuated the existence of a party-division, which, if it were possible for party-divisions to end, should have ended at the Revolution. It was the deeply artful policy of WILLIAM, to hold the balance between the *Whigs* and the *Tories*; to employ the Whigs as his instruments for the support of the revolution-settlement,—the Tories, for the protection of the prerogative of the Crown; to parry with the one party the attacks of the other; and thus to preserve himself master of both. ANNE, seduced by partiality for her favourites, first resigned herself, implicitly, to the direction of the Whigs; and then, after rendering this party too strong; endeavoured to call in the Tories to her protection against the despotic arrogance of her Whig Ministers, with an effort and a struggle which made her life considerably unhappy, during the latter years of her reign. The power which the Whigs had acquired during the reign of Anne, aided by the odium which they had found means to throw upon their adversaries, enabled them to give the law to her successor: and GEORGE, imprudently grateful, or trusting too implicitly to the information and advices of men who had been bought by the Whigs, threw himself entirely into their hands. The plots and insurrections of the Jacobites, as they were unsuccessful,

served

served to throw new odium upon the Tories, and to strengthen the power of the Whiggish party. For a while, the balance between the two rival parties was wholly lost: And the Whigs enjoyed a degree of popularity with the nation, and of favour with two successive Sovereigns; which made the government wholly theirs, and tempted them to abuses of their authority and influence; that were, at least, not less flagrant and illegal than those which they had ever branded as the necessary results from Tory principles alone. Their divisions among themselves, gave, at length, a degree of force to an Opposition originally Tory, by which the principal body of the Whiggish party was driven, with Sir Robert Walpole, from the helm of government. But, though the Tories had contended in the front of the battle, they could not yet obtain an equal share in the spoils of the victory. They were excluded from any substantial participation in power and emoluments. They renewed their opposition: the rebellion of the year 1745 took place: and the ministry remained feeble and unsettled; till the Whigs, with the addition of a few recreant Tories, again fixed themselves in a possession of power; in which they were, to the beginning of the present reign, maintained,—chiefly by means of the vast *Election-influence* of the *Pelhams*. While unable to obtain the chief direction of their Sovereign's counsels; the Tories had naturally endeavoured to recommend themselves to the favour of his

his apparent heir ; had assiduously haunted the Court of Prince Frederick, father to our present King ; and had contrived to engross the chief direction of the education of the young Prince of Wales, after his father's death. It was, in consequence of these things, the policy of the present reign, from its very commencement, to conciliate the loyalty of the Tories ; not by abandoning to them, alone, the reins of the government,—a measure no longer possible ; but by advancing them into an equality of power with the Whigs. It was even, as it should seem, projected to form a new Tory party, who should attach themselves to the family of Hanover, just as devotedly as the ancient Tories had been attached to the Stuarts. A design was conceived of giving new dignity to the Crown, by the imitation of the policy of William ; by which it might be enabled—to withdraw itself from being merely the ward of one of the two great parties, and to become master of the balance between them. No sooner were the fiercest Whig leaders aware of this new plan of conduct for the Crown, than they resented it, as treason against that paramount authority which they had hoped always to engross. They struggled with their utmost vigour to disappoint it. Their efforts ; that management by which these were opposed ; and even the concessions that were made to soothe them ; produced those frequent changes in the ministry, which took place during the first part of the
present

present reign. Under the administration of Lord North, the system of the combination of Whigs with Tories, upon new principles—in their spirit chiefly Tory, seemed to be carried fully into effect, with a stability that might prove permanent. Success in the subjection of the American colonies to British taxation, would have confirmed it beyond the possibility of subversion by any immediate efforts of the Whigs. The misfortunes of the American war, and the weakness of Lord North's administration, were encouraging the Whigs with new hopes, at the time when Mr. DUNDAS began to distinguish himself, as a member of the British parliament.

Being the first law-officer of the Crown for Scotland, it was natural that he should, in the House of Commons, act as the advocate of the measures of the administration. When the fall of that ministry appeared to be inevitable; he strove to make himself so eminently master of some of the grand branches of the national business: that, in whatever changes should ensue; his aid might be too important to any new administration, to be hastily slighted; his opposition too formidable, to be carelessly provoked. After the British affairs in America seemed desperate; the eyes of all were turned upon India, as the most valuable of those distant possessions, which yet remained to the nation. Among other parliamentary enquiries, a *Secret Committee* of the House of Commons was, upon a motion

motion from the minister himself, nominated to “ enquire into the causes of the war in the Carnatic, and of the unfavourable condition of the British possessions in those parts.” Mr. DUNDAS was appointed Chairman of this Committee. In the report that he made from the Committee, and in the formation of a bill which he, soon after, introduced into parliament for the regulation of the British affairs in India, the force of his abilities for business, was very conspicuously displayed. This bill was defeated by the efforts of the Opposition. But, Mr. Dundas, in the course of the enquiry by which it was suggested, had acquired and exhibited a knowledge of Indian affairs, that was afterwards to contribute, in an eminent manner, to his advancement.

The misfortunes of the campaign of the year 1781, at last reduced Lord North to the necessity of retiring from the administration. A new ministry was formed—of Whigs who prepared to act upon the ancient principles of the Whig aristocracy. But, they could not so adjust, either their plans of government, or the rival pretensions of private interests, as to secure the permanency of their ministerial power. The present Marquis of Lansdowne, then Earl of Shelburne, at the head of another new administration—of mingled Whigs and Tories, was the negociator of a general peace, which gave tranquillity to America, India, and Europe. But, to recover some part of their former power
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and emoluments, those adherents to Lord North, who had been lately the supporters of the new Tory system, agreed to coalesce with the Whig opponents of the ministry of Shelburne, and to espouse the boldest aristocratical principles of ancient Whiggism. Lord Shelburne was, consequently, driven from the helm of government. Fox and North became the ministers. And the sovereign saw himself reduced into that helpless constrained situation, in which George the Second had obeyed and then outwitted Pulteney, and in which he had afterwards suffered the Pelhams arrogantly to dictate to him. The Whigs were now, however, much more broken into subordinate parties, than they had anciently been; the grand principles of the party were much feebler, and less extensive, in their influence; the voice of public opinion, independent of Parliament, was now far more powerful; the Crown possessed a small band of devoted adherents, the *new Tories* of the present reign, which formed for it, such an engine of defence against the incroachments of the Whiggish aristocracy, as it had formerly wanted. While the Whigs endeavoured to fortify themselves in the strong-holds of power, by means which should make it alike impossible for the Sovereign to thrust them out, and for an Opposition to force the gates upon them: The Monarch was emboldened to resist their attempts, to put himself at the head of their adversaries, and to dismiss them from the administration,

ministration, before they should reduce him into the *virtual* condition of a mere prisoner of state. By an use, which we should have supposed unconstitutional, of the sovereign's personal influence to affect the decisions of the members of the legislature; that grand measure was defeated, through which the Coalition upon the principles of the old Whig aristocracy, had hoped to establish themselves, immoveably, in the possession of the government. Various artifices, conceived and employed with consummate ability and address, enabled a young minister, with a parliamentary minority, to baffle an Opposition composing a majority in the House of Commons. A dissolution of that parliament ensued. The new election *returned* to the Houses of the Legislature a decisive majority of members who were willing to support an administration of the government, formed upon that system of policy in the Crown, which had its origin with the commencement of the present reign. Mr. Pitt was destined to consummate the great plan of the late Earl of Bute. A ministry was formed, somewhat more Whiggish in the composition of its parts, than that of Lord North, but in its vital spirit, at least not less Tory. It combined, indeed, the Toryism of Bolingbroke with the Whiggism of Walpole. Those who were thus reduced to a minority, and driven into opposition; seem to have, in their adversity, relinquished the high aristocratical Whig principles; and to have resum-

ed the wildest spirit of the original Whigs of the latter part of the reign of Charles the Second.

In all these contests and changes of ministry, from the time of the near approach of the fall of Lord North, to the establishment of a steady and efficient administration under Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas acted a busy and important part. Conscious of talents for political business, which would enable him to serve his country usefully in the highest offices of government; he was naturally unwilling to relinquish his station, and to throw himself into an unrelenting opposition to those by whom Lord North had been supplanted. But his *political principles were adverse to the high pretensions of the Whig aristocracy, and friendly to that which had been the policy of the Crown, ever since the beginning of the present reign.* He wisely regarded that policy, as the only one upon which, in the circumstances of the present time, a firm, efficient, and truly useful ministry could be established. This judgment was, as it should seem, the grand principle of his political conduct; and of this principle he never lost sight. He might vary his means; but he still held the same end steadily in view. During the whole train of these party-contentions, he was courted and esteemed as a friend; he was dreaded and respected as an opponent. Without a personal fortune that might make his purse useful to the party to which he should adhere; without any extensive election-influence; without powerful family-con-

nexions;

nexions; he forced the contending parties to regard him as a man who,—if in Administration, must occupy no mean place,—if in Opposition, must possess the authority of a leader. Higher testimony than this, could not be given, in favour of his genius, his sagacity, his skill and diligence in business. To the young and inexperienced members of Mr. Pitt's administration, the assistance of such a man as Mr. Dundas, must have been absolutely invaluable. By his assistance chiefly, was Mr. Pitt enabled to win over to his interests, all the leading members of the East-India Company, at the most critical period of the parliamentary struggle; and afterwards to produce, with their consent, a system of *India Controul*; which was, in its essential tendency, very little different from the abhorred plan of Mr. Fox. The appointments of *Treasurer of the Navy*, and *President of the Board of Controul of the East-India Company in the management of their Affairs*, with a *Seat in the Cabinet-Council*, were the first rewards of Mr. Dundas's seasonable services in the arrangements of the new administration. Aware, that he owed all this, solely to his own talents and exertions, the public naturally estimated the degree of his usefulness as a minister and a parliamentary orator, by the importance of the situations to which he was thus raised. Some opprobrious remarks might be thrown out by detraction, against his political integrity. In regard to his ability for the duties of his offices,

there was but one opinion, and that highly favourable to him.

Many men have been thought worthy of official greatness, till they attained it, who, when at the height of their ambition, belied their own previous boastings, and entirely disappointed the expectations of the world. It was not so with Mr. Dundas. His arrangements in the distribution of the public money appropriated for the uses of the navy; were quickly seen to contribute to new order and œconomy on the part of the state, and to an accommodating promptitude in the payment—of the wages of the seamen in particular, by which the royal service was rendered much less disagreeable to our British mariners, than it had formerly been. Over India affairs, he is understood to have acquired a supreme influence; not so much from the official situation of President of the Board of Controul, as from his thorough knowledge—of the state of the East-India Company's capital, territorial, pecuniary, and commercial,—of the relation between the proprietors of the Company—and the establishments of servants, by which they administer their affairs,—of the best means for accommodating British manners and government to the arts, manners, prejudices, customs, and long-established institutions of the Mahommedans and Hindoos of the East,—of the arrangements requisite to maintain the government of India in a due dependency upon the imperial government of Britain, and to
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make the Indian dominions of this great Company, an actual addition of political strength, not a burthen, to the powers of the British empire.—When the late Mr. Burke, and the other leaders of the Opposition; perhaps attributing the disappointment of their hopes of official power, to the election-influence of the East-India company and some of its principal servants; endeavoured to combine public justice with party-revenge, and to crush their most obnoxious enemies by a parliamentary prosecution of Mr. Hastings; Mr. Dundas neither opposed this prosecution, so far as it seemed to have in view only the ends of public justice,—nor favoured it, where it appeared to originate in baser motives.—The affairs of the East-India Company had been reduced, by the necessary expences of war, if not by the rapacity, profusion, and general mal-administration of its servants, into a disorder that threatened bankruptcy. But for the attentions of the President of the Board of Controul, and the æconomical regulations which he enforced; perhaps even the prosperity of returning peace, might have been insufficient to raise those affairs into that flourishing state, which they were soon seen to attain.—The accounts of the revenues, the expenditure, and the commercial transactions of the India Company, which his official situation has led him to present, every year, to Parliament; are confessed to be; not only decisive proofs of the happy efficiency of the new system for the management of India affairs; but masterpieces of clearness, of

order, of accuracy, and especially of skill to reduce the complex and intricate to a beautiful and instructive simplicity.—In Parliament, Mr. Dundas has shewn himself, able to vindicate the conduct of the Executive Government, in those branches of its administration, in which he has been himself particularly employed; ready to supply all information that was demanded concerning his department in the business of the navy, or concerning India affairs, if ministerial prudence did not forbid the disclosure; watchful, not to suffer himself to be anticipated by complaints, petitions, or suggestions from others, in the introduction of those new bills for regulations relative to India, or to the Navy, which it became him to be the first to propose to the legislature. In other parliamentary affairs, he has ever approved himself the powerful defender of the general system of the measures of Mr. Pitt's administration. His speeches, always rich in vigorous common sense, in extraordinary political sagacity, in original knowledge of life and of affairs, and marked by a bold avowal of the principles of moderate Toryism and of ministerial expediency, have afforded a powerful and indispensable aid, even to the splendid and vehemently argumentative eloquence of Mr. Pitt. Having never professed a political creed essentially different from that upon which he, at present, acts; he never finds himself, like some of his associates, in those situations of ridiculous distress; in which a man must unavoidably stand, when he is obliged to

to oppose principles, of which he was once the violent partizan. In the Cabinet,—which, no doubt, has, like Parliament, its parties,—Mr. Dundas is understood to have always steadily co-operated with Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville, in the recommendation of measures of government, of which Mr. Pitt and himself are the first authors.

Spite of all the efforts of a powerful Opposition, conducted by men of the most illustrious talents; every successive year, for a while, continued to confirm the stability of the administration of Mr. Dundas and Mr. Pitt. All the energies of trade, and of peaceful industry, were renovated, after the war. The loss of America occasioned much of that part of the British commercial capital, which was, before, wont to be inconsiderately transferred for the colonization of the American provinces,—to be, now, laid out with much greater advantage,—upon manufacturing establishments and agricultural improvements at home. There was a natural increase of the population of the empire: there was an added accumulation of its stock. The augmented national debt; as it did, in reality, nothing more than vary the distribution of a part of the annual income from the lands, industry, and commerce of the nation; failed of occasioning that entire ruin and bankruptcy, which many *wisacre* politicians had expected from it. Even those additional taxes, which were demanded for the enlarged expenditure of the government; being regularly returned, through the channels of circulation,

tion, to that industry from which they had been drawn; were not found to be insupportably burthenfome. The people; not understanding, that all this depended, not so much upon the influence and wisdom of government, as upon the natural and necessary relations of things; found themselves flourishing and happy; and were willing to attribute almost all their prosperity to the talents and the virtue of the ministers. They saw the arrangements of *taxation*; the *influence* of Britain in the system of the European powers; the distribution of *justice*; and those alterations in the *laws*, which were required by altering manners and circumstances; all regulated and maintained, with a skill and vigilance, on the part of the Government, which had been rarely excelled in any former period of the British history: And, with a very natural error of imagination, they eagerly attributed to the ability and beneficence which managed these things so well, almost every other felicity in their lot. It was peculiarly advantageous, also, to Mr. Dundas and Mr. Pitt, as ministers; that, in the latter time of the American war, the minds of the people had been depressed into extreme despondency, in respect to national affairs. Many fancied, that the hour of Britain's doom had actually arrived, and that by the expenditure and the disasters of that war, the nation was irretrievably ruined. Now, the contrast between what had been feared, and what had come to pass, was so strong and striking, that the short-sighted in politics were necessarily

necessarily led to regard the ministers of the æra of such unexpected prosperity, as the saviours of the land. When the temporary, but severe, indisposition of the Sovereign, seemed to create a necessity for the establishment of a Regency ; and Mr. Pitt, with Mr. Dundas, and their ministerial associates, were, consequently, threatened with the loss of ministerial power ; it then, appeared, how remarkably their administration had recommended them to the favour of the nation : For, there was a general dread of the exaltation of Mr. Fox and his party, and a general concern among the people for the support of the present ministers ; as if the change would have produced to the nation, all the most grievous calamities that could be feared or fancied. Mr. Dundas steadily adhered to Mr. Pitt, in that season of difficulty and alarm : And his co-operation, as it was bold, firm, and vigorous, so was it also eminently useful.

A parliamentary Opposition, are, in Britain, by a natural necessity, the inspectors and accusers of the ministry, and the tribunes of the people. To the Whig-Aristocracy in the Opposition to the administration of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas, therefore,—it was painful, above all their other mortifications and disappointments,—to perceive ; that the ministers, their adversaries, were still, with the great body of the nation, more popular than they. At the time of the contest, in consequence of which the present ministers were established in official power ; Mr. Pitt and his friends had striven to detach the people

ple from their adversaries, by the profession of an almost Democratical Whiggism, intended to expose to abhorrence, the principles of the Whig-Aristocracy. But, Democratical Whiggism, being utterly incompatible with the efficient administration of the English government, had never been other than the political creed of the party out of power. Mr. Pitt and his friends could not remain constant to it, after their elevation,—any more than did the Whigs who had raged for liberty in the reign of Queen Anne, remain constant to their principles, after the accession of George the First. Availing themselves of this, the Opposition became, gradually, more Democratical in their professions of Whiggism ; till, about the æra when the events of the French Revolution, first broke forth ; they, at last, completely regained the favour of a great proportion of the people. The progress of that Revolution tended, powerfully, to excite the energies of Public Opinion, to that pitch of exertion, at which it might enable the people to exercise a new controuling influence over the Government and the legislature. The boldest members of the Opposition, probably hoped ; that the power of Public Opinion might now be employed, with happy efficacy, to degrade a ministry whom it had, at the first, exalted ; that the people might be made the instruments of the exaltation of the Whig-Aristocracy ; and might be, then, dismissed from political bustle, till their intervention should again be wanted.

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The ministry, on the other hand, failed not to remark the new energy, with which popular opinion was erecting itself to controul the powers of the parliament and the sovereign. They saw, that the stability of their own power was in danger. But, such was the infection of false principles, and such the progress of events; that they might soon see, also; that the same storm which menaced their overthrow, was also big with mischief to the ancient political Constitution of the Empire. Their own cause was likely to be the better supported, since it was thus essentially connected with the interest of their country. With a management, consummately skilful, of which the praise is, in no mean degree, to be ascribed to Mr. Dundas; they contrived to divide the party of their adversaries, to detach and entice into their own ranks, all the true Aristocratical Whigs; once more to combine in their favour, the more opulent and prudent throughout the nation; and to leave, in opposition to them, none but those who were, in their principles, boldly and decisively Democratical.

The continuance of the administration of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas, and their co-adjutors, was thus, in the opinion of a very considerable part of the nation, rendered necessary to the salvation of the empire. Yet, the part which they had now to act, was still full of difficulties and perils. It seemed requisite, that they should engage Britain in a war to curb the republican ambition of France: but, the expediency, and even the justice of such a war, were far from being decisively clear. If the public
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law of Europe, the feelings of humanity, and the principle of precaution for self-preservation might afford a sufficient vindication of the justice of declaring war against France; yet, was it not to be dreaded lest such a war should serve, only to rouse, and to discipline the myriads of the French republicans, to universal conquest? Was not the measure of declaring war against the French nation, one that seemed directly to favour the views of the Brissotines, the authors of all the greatness of republican France? There was danger, lest Democratical Whiggism when no longer under the guidance and restraint of the Whig Aristocracy, might become much more turbulent at home than it had ever before been. It might be impossible to form such a combination of the continental Powers, as would be indispensibly requisite to co-operate effectually, with the naval power of Britain, in order to humble France. The expenditure of a war might produce financial embarrassments sufficient to overthrow the Constitution and Government. The change from a state of peace to a state of war, had, in former times, but too often produced changes of administration. Associating the Aristocratical Whigs with themselves in the government; the former ministry might be obliged to resign a portion of their power and emoluments; the loss of which would render their official situation less agreeable than before.

All these inconveniencies, the British ministers have, in the progress of these last ten years, had to encounter. How they have contended with, and

in part surmounted, them, is known to the world. To Mr. Dundas it is highly honourable, that, his personal history is, thus, interwoven with the history of his country, in a manner which makes it impossible to give the one, without sketching the other. The importance of his services to the administration of which he was a member, had occasioned him to be intrusted, in addition to his other offices, with the seals as Secretary of State. When the new arrangement with the Whigs, introduced the Duke of Portland into the ministry; it was found to be more eligible to create a third Secretary, than to remove Mr. Dundas from conducting the correspondence relative to the measures and operations of the war. Although he has, ever since, held the office of Secretary of State, together with those of Treasurer to the Navy, and President of the Board for the Controul of Indian Affairs; yet no confusion or delay in the dispatch of the business of his different offices, has ever been complained of. Those measures, in the concerting of which, he has, in the course of the war, had a share; have been distinguished by remarkable energy and sagacity, and by a very skilful adaptation of the means employed, to the ends which it was proposed to accomplish. It may be true, that the practice of the French, and the suggestions of the Opposition, have first hinted some of the wisest and most vigorous measures, which Mr. Dundas and his fellow-ministers have, in the course of the war, adopted. But, it must, at the same time, be owned; that much

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has, also, originated with these ministers themselves ; and besides, that, only men of talents are capable, even of adopting, with advantage, the projects of others ; for a blockhead will ever make the best schemes ridiculous, in attempting to make them his own.

The plans for the formation of the fencible regiments, the supplementary militia, the volunteer companies, the provisional cavalry, and all that military force which has been levied and maintained, in the course of the present war, for the internal defence of this country against invasion or insurrection ; have either originated with Mr. Dundas, or have fallen, in a particular manner, under his consideration and management, in his character of Secretary of State for the War Department. Nor is it to be denied, that means better adapted for the accomplishment of the objects which were held in view, could not have been easily conceived. The distribution of the troops in garrisons and barracks, throughout the kingdom, is, also, a matter in which he has, no doubt, been principally concerned. It must be owned, that, whether for the suppression of the spirit of insurrection and sedition, or for defence against hostile attacks from abroad, this distribution could not well have been more skilful.

He has long been considered as holding, virtually, the power of minister for Scotland. Never was there among the Scots less of discontent against the government, than during this period. The measure of the restoration of the *Forfeited Estates*

Estates, was a noble one, of which Mr. Dundas has been regarded as the author, and which tended, in an eminent manner, to heal those wounds which civil discord and rebellion had anciently inflicted. Never were those different cases, in which the changing state of Scotland demanded the interposition of the legislature for its improvement, more vigilantly watched by a ministry, or more carefully provided for. If it have been alledged; that, in some examples, in the distribution of justice in the criminal courts of Scotland; there has been shewn a disposition to throw the law and the person accused, as much as possible, at the mercy of the Crown: It is, however, universally confessed; that, never was the Crown's prerogative of pardoning criminals, exercised with greater clemency and forbearance, than in the instance of persons accused or condemned, during this time, for political crimes, among the Scots. In the distribution of places and emoluments in the patronage of the Crown in Scotland, during this period, the scale of political influence and family-respectability, has been consulted, with a degree of care and exactitude, which has, very essentially contributed to promote the strength of the present administration, and to invest Mr. Dundas himself with an influence that he did not originally enjoy. Nothing but singular prudence in the leading minister for Scottish affairs; could have so reconciled all the principal nobility, and almost all the great land-holders, to the same ministry;

ministry; notwithstanding the multiplicity and the necessary rivalities of their different pretensions to the favours of the crown.

Mr. Dundas is understood—to be capable of a very laborious application to business; and to possess, in an uncommon degree, those powers of intuitive discernment, of dispatch, and of arrangement, by which the toil of business is ever exceedingly abridged and facilitated. He is accustomed to rise at a very early hour in the morning; and is, consequently, able to accomplish much, which his intercourse with his friends, and his necessary appearances in public, would, otherwise, unavoidably hinder him from performing. His manners and general conduct in private life, are said to be very winning and agreeable. His personal friends are numerous, and warmly attached to him. He is said to enjoy, with a high relish, the pleasures of domestic and convivial life. He has been twice married:—His present lady is a sister of the Earl of Hope-toun.—Notwithstanding the necessity for the disposal of every favour of the Crown, that passes through his hands, with a view to the strengthening of his political interest with the people and with the freeholders; he has been known, in some instances, to advance his own private friends, upon the most generous and disinterested motives, but with a sagacious discernment of virtue and talents in them, which has done him the highest honour.—His official labours have, long, left him little leisure for the cultivation of literature. But, of genuine literature,

literature, he has, on various occasions, evinced himself, if not the ostentatious, at least the sincere, patron. Till the time when he took part with Mr. Pitt, against the coalition of Mr. Fox and Lord North, he enjoyed the esteem of the late Dr. Robertson, the historian, and regarded him with a corresponding respect. He has lived in habits of friendly intimacy and correspondence with Dr. Hugh Blair; a man whose writings have contributed, perhaps, more than those of any one of his contemporaries, to refine the taste and to improve the virtue of the age. Mr. Bruce, who had the merit of being the first to banish the barbarous logic of the schools from a Scottish University,—and to propose, that, in ethics, the same rigorous analysis and induction should be employed, which Bacon had taught, and Newton so successfully exemplified, in physics; and who has distinguished himself as the author of several valuable works; has, by the favour of Mr. Dundas, been honoured with several important appointments. Upon the death of Dr. Robertson, the place of Historiographer to the King for Scotland, was—not, as is believed, without the particular intervention of Mr. Dundas,—conferred upon Dr. Gillies, who had, undeniably, exhibited a more splendid monument of historical excellence than any other of his surviving fellow-countrymen. Solely with a view to enlarge the means of rewarding professional worth and literary excellence, among that respectable body of men, the clergy of the

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church of Scotland ; Mr. Dundas is understood to have recommended to his Majesty, to increase the number of his Chaplains for Scotland, from six to ten ; an augmentation, which, several years since, took place. In those promotions, too, in the profession of the law, which have been made by Mr. Dundas's influence and advice, talents and the reputation of integrity and honour have, *cæteris paribus*, ever been preferred. And, indeed, in all the appointments to office, which have fallen within Mr. Dundas's province of the administration, he has constantly shewn himself superior to that vice of narrow minds, which dreads to favour the advancement of a man of abilities, lest he should become a refractory servant, or, perhaps, a rival. It has been alleged by some, not careless readers of history and observers of life ; that, in eloquence, in the dispatch of business, in a convivial cast of character, and in the mixed reputation of ability and political virtue ; there exists a very striking resemblance between the character of Mr. Dundas and that of Sir Robert Walpole ; but a resemblance which leaves to the former, an unquestionable advantage in the comparison.

But, there are many worthy and not unenlightened members of the community, who judge of all these things, in a manner almost directly contrary to that in which they have been here represented. These men regard every thing in the administration of the government, as despicably weak and execrably wicked ; which attains not to the
highest

highest conceivable perfection of patriotic virtue ; and especially, which differs from their own notions of the best plans of political arrangement. They regard Mr. Dundas, and the ministerial friends with whom he co-operates, with extreme abhorrence ; because they consider this as having involved the Country in an unnecessary and endless war, with republican France ; because they oppose a political reform, esteemed by the opposition so necessary to the salvation of the state ; because they retain possession of ministerial power, at a time when their retiring might secure to the nation the blessings of peace ; because, perhaps, they are not Charles James Fox, the Duke of Bedford, the Marquis of Lansdowne, or Mr. Charles Grey ; because they comply, in their ministry, with the imperfect virtue of those with whom the power of the legislature and the radical authority of the executive government reside ; because, if the war must be persevered in, they have not, ere this, effected its professed objects !

With patriots so ardent, with politicians so enlightened, with men so richly endowed with the shrewdness of common sense, the writer of this article will not presume to contend. But it will, one day, perhaps, be received as a political axiom ; that, to improve the structure of society is utterly impossible, unless you shall have first improved the elements of which that society is composed ; *that political reform is utterly impossible by any other means, save that of making men, as individuals, scientific-*

ally and morally wiser, more virtuous, and more industrious; that the government and legislation will ever be of the same character with the private intelligence, industry, and manners of a people,—cannot outrun these in improvement,—cannot, *alone*, very materially influence them,—*must* be improved, as *they* receive improvement. And when these truths shall come to be generally allowed; it will then, too, perhaps, be acknowledged; that there is as much political wisdom in the character and measures of the present administration, as could be easily obtained under all the existing circumstances by any other arrangement of the British government; and that Mr. Dundas, though not insuperably great in talents, nor spotlessly perfect in virtue, may well be esteemed to be in all respects eminent, in comparison with other contemporary politicians,—to be great in these days of little men, to use the words of Johnson, “a giant among the pigmies,—the one-eyed monarch of the blind!”

R. S.

Edinburgh, March 15, 1799.

ARTHUR WOLFE,

BARON KILWARDEN,

*Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in Ireland, and lately the
Irish Attorney-general.*

OF the facility with which even moderate talents may rise to the highest rank and the first offices in the state, when the possessor has the good fortune to think uniformly with the executive power, Lord Kilwarden is a striking instance.

Born

Born in an obscure condition, he had nevertheless the advantage of a college education, in the university of Dublin, and was called to the Irish bar in 1766. He was soon appointed a king's counsel, and by very laborious industry in his profession, was making way to wealth and legal character, when, in consequence of a high opinion of his talents, he was introduced into parliament by Lord Tyrone. Though Mr. Wolfe, from his outset in life, was a staunch friend to the administration of the day, whoever might compose it, it was yet so late as the year 1787 before he mounted the first step of the ladder to the bench, by being appointed his Majesty's Solicitor-general. This, we suppose, was owing to the superior talents and more important services of other candidates, for in zeal he was inferior to none.

His next advancement followed close on the heels of the former, being nominated Attorney-general in 1789, on the promotion of Mr. Fitzgibbon to the court of Chancery. It was in this situation that his parliamentary talents, if he possessed any, would have had fair and ample room for display. Unfortunately for him, however, he succeeded a man whose powers of mind, senatorial courage, and skill in doing the "king's business," were so far superior to his own, that he suffered severely by comparison. Indeed his stock of merit was thought to be but small, and it was generally believed that when Mr. Ponsonby, on a certain occasion, allowed him to be "a very worthy gentleman,

man, but a *miserable* attorney-general," there was more truth in the animadversion than political invective usually possesses.

There was, however, a degree of candour and openness in Mr. W.'s manner, which entitled him to esteem and praise; though these very qualities, perhaps, disqualified him from appearing to great advantage in his official character. This, although it was not invariably apparent, secured for him many friends, even in the opposition; and those who often pitied the *law-officer* of the crown, and laughed at his arguments, yet respected the *man* who used them.

In cases of property, Mr. W.'s was considered as a sound opinion; but on constitutional questions he has been called the *doubting lawyer*, from the circumstance of his having been unable to urge any other answer to charges once brought against the late Lord Clonmel, for holding men to excessive bail under *fiats* for libel, except that of *doubting* whether or not his lordship's conduct had been illegal!

Mr. W. is reported to have been the adviser of most, if not all the severe laws which have been, for some years past, enacted in Ireland; and which have suspended, with what justice or necessity we do not presume to judge, some of the most important and constitutional rights of the subject. If it be true that those laws, and the system of which they were a part, have been the cause, instead of the effect, of the late disturbances in that country, he must bear a large share of the blame; as he
will

will deserve much of the praise, if the penal statutes alluded to, were wise and necessary.

Mr. W. was raised to the peerage and the bench on the death of Lord Chief Justice Clonmel. As a speaker, his voice is strong and deep; but it is neither mellow nor capable of much variety. His action is the mere *swing-swang* of the bar; and even on the most momentous and animating subjects, he seemed rather to plead for a fee, than to attain the dignity of an orator. The matter of his speeches is dull, orderly, and phlegmatic, unenlivened with the least ray of fancy or of genius. His language partakes of this character:—simple, but not always correct; and plain, without being neat.

In private life, his lordship has the high character of being a steady friend, and an honest man. As a companion he is less valuable, his manners being rather of a sombre and austere complexion, while the dull monotony of his ideas is incapable of yielding spontaneously, or affording, by collision, a single spark of fancy.

MR. CURRAN.

OF all the opinions which have obtained a general currency, without being either founded in truth or sanctioned by experience, there are none, perhaps, which have been so widely circulated as those by which we are taught to believe, that the

study of law is adverse to the operations of genius, and that a lively imagination cannot be fettered to professional pursuits; that to be learned, a man must be dull, and that wit cannot be possessed but to the exclusion of industry.

Among the many examples which might be adduced from antiquity, or exhibited in modern times, to prove the futility of this dangerous conceit, that of Mr. Curran is not the least striking. No man has acquired higher reputation for those powers which delight and captivate the fancy, touch the springs of passion, elicit tears from the softness of sensibility, or extort from gravity itself the roar of laughter; yet has the assiduous industry and laborious exertions of this gentleman raised him from the humblest walk of life, in which his birth had placed him, to the first rank, if not the first place, at the Irish bar. He has not, indeed, attained high official situations, or risen to those honours which are oftener the reward of judicious politics, than of professional ability; but he has acquired that which is a much stronger proof both of industry and of talent—the uncontested title of being the first advocate in his country.

Mr. Curran is about fifty years of age. He was born in the county of Cork, of parents who were undistinguished by wealth or situation; who had neither a fortune by which they could have enabled the son to live independently, nor connexions by which they could advance him to a profession

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They were, however, capable of giving him the rudiments of a liberal education, and that seems to be the only advantage which he derived from his family. Having qualified himself for the university, he entered in the only character in which his circumstances enabled him to appear, that of a *sizer* in the college of Dublin; a situation of which the emoluments are very trivial, while the marks of inferiority which distinguish it from that of the other students, are of the most mortifying kind. The *sizers* have, indeed, their tuition free of expence; but they are obliged to keep the rolls of their tutors, and attend to the weekly distribution of fines and punishments of the pupils. They have also their commons *gratis*, but they dine only on the fragments of the fellows' table, and are compellable to discharge, in the dining-hall, several menial services.

In this situation did Mr. C. pass his first year at the university; nor did he appear, in point of pecuniary circumstances, to stand at the head even of this humble class. It is a fact, that the man who possessed powers that could mould the heart, charm the imagination, and guide the judgment of a senate, or of a court, was often destitute of a whole coat!

At the usual time (two years after entrance) he obtained a scholarship; by which, and by the emoluments arising from some petty offices generally bestowed on scholars, he emerged from the distress in which he had been hitherto involved.

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The remainder of his college career is not marked by any peculiar circumstances; he obtained the usual honours with which the policy of the university rewards industry and talents, and is said to have made some progress in reading the laborious course which is prescribed for fellowship candidates; but whether disgusted with the drudgery, or deterred by the magnitude of the undertaking, he soon desisted from the pursuit, and turned his attention to the bar.

Previously to his becoming a student in the Inns of Court in London, Mr. Curran married a lady of his own country. This match appears to have been founded in inclination, for she did not bring him a fortune sufficient to compensate the inconveniences into which such a premature connexion must have thrown him. Of the means by which he was enabled to support himself and wife, during his studies in England, and afterwards to defray the expence of his call to the bar, nothing certain is known; it is natural to suppose, however, that with talents like his, it would not be difficult to procure a livelihood by his literary exertions. But whatever might have been the mode by which his finances were supplied, it is certain that when he first came to the bar, he was in extreme poverty. He resided in Caven-street, Dublin, a place occupied entirely by the lowest class of people, and which, in point of *gentility*, is on a level with the least reputable part of Westminster.

Mrs. Curran had now brought him a child; and

being,

being unable to indulge in the practice so common in Ireland, of sending their children to be nursed abroad, she was obliged to undergo the labour of discharging at once the duties of nurse, housewife, and cook. About this time he became a frequenter of a convivial society, originally formed by some young barristers, and called the *Monks of the Screw*. Although the members of this institution were merry, they were poor; the object of their meetings was to forget, in good fellowship, the cares of life, and relax the mind from the intenseness of legal studies. The devotion of the Monks, however, was promoted by humbler beverage than the juice of the grape, and their temple was nothing more than an upper room in a Cavan-street ale-house. Poor as such a society must have been, the circumstances of Mr. Curran were so much more humble, that they were forwarded by his connexion even with it. As the club affected to be *select*, it became necessary, at length, that they should have an apartment to themselves; they therefore engaged one at a certain rent, and Mr. Curran was complimented with the use of it, for the residence of himself and his family, except only during those evenings on which the members assembled. He must have been poor, indeed, who lodged in such a mansion!

Mr. Curran was not the only man of talents who, at that time, belonged to this society, and whom a subsequent display of genius, and of learning, raised to eminence. The present Chief Baron

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of the Irish Exchequer, Lord Yelverton, the early intimate and friend of Curran, was one of its original members. Though more fortunate than him in his political, as well as forensic pursuits, the connexion first formed and cemented between them in the poverty of their early years (for Lord Yelverton, like Curran, had to struggle with the difficulties of a narrow fortune), has continued through every vicissitude of succeeding life, not only unbroken, but in full strength.

That learning and talents are often enabled to raise themselves into notice, without the fortunate co-operation of extrinsic circumstances, is an observation which has been frequently exemplified in every profession ; but, perhaps, more frequently in that of the law, than any other. Our young barrister, with qualities which are as likely to strike at first sight, as those possessed by any of his contemporaries, remained, however, for some time at the bar entirely unnoticed. The attention of the public was turned toward him, for the first time, in rather a singular way.

He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a contested election, and in the course of the poll, it became necessary for him to make objections to a vote proffered by the adverse party, which he did in that strong and sarcastic manner for which he is so remarkable. His antagonist, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit, and not immediately recognising the barrister under a shabby coat, and a mean appearance

ance (for nature has not been very favourable in external decorations), he applied to him some very gross epithets. With more spirit, perhaps, than decorum, Mr. Curran leaped from his seat, seized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interposition of the by-standers from chastising him on the spot. Not being precluded, however, from asserting his independence in that way, which could alone be tolerated in the presence of a magistrate, he, therefore, in a few pithy sentences, disclosed his *mind* and his *character* : his antagonist had generosity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologized to Mr. Curran for the consequences of his mistake ; nay, instead of resenting the violence with which he had repelled the insult, he granted him his friendship, and by his recommendation and patronage very essentially promoted his future interests.

From that period he began to rise rapidly. Within less than six months he quitted his gratuitous lodgings in Cavan-street, and removed nearer to the more reputable part of the town. Mrs. Curran no longer dishonoured her lord's circumstances, by appearing in the discharge of those domestic offices which are usually performed by deputy ; nay, in less than a year, the rising prosperity of the family was visible in the luxury of a one-horse chair ! Merit was now finding its proper level, and, in this instance at least, we no longer behold great learning and uncommon genius struggling

gling with adversity, or sullied in the estimation of vulgar minds, by an undeserved poverty!

In 1784, we find Mr. Curran seated in the House of Commons *, and seconding, with much sportive humour, every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the establishment of its commercial freedom and political independence.

During the arduous and interesting period in which Mr. Fitzgibbon filled the office of Attorney-general, he was one of the leading men in opposition, and of course came into frequent collision with that dogmatical and haughty lawyer. The high tone of defiance on legal or constitutional questions, with which the Attorney-general endeavoured to overbear his opponents, was more frequently ridiculed by the wit, than combated by the arguments, of Mr. Curran: if in this mode of combat, he did not always repel the blow, he at least evaded its force; and though he could not on every occasion boast of victory, he at least escaped defeat. Of one of these contests, the issue was more serious; it produced a duel, in which Mr. C. was the challenger, but which happily was attended with no injury to either party.

While Mr. Curran was thus successfully attentive to business, he did not suffer opportunities of pleasure to pass by him unenjoyed. He was na-

* He had received a silk-gown a little before this, by the Portland administration.

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turally, indeed, a man of uncommon gaiety ; possessing an exquisite ear for music, and being himself no ordinary performer on the *forte-piano*, it was not strange that the Circe-like allurements of Mrs. Billington should have enchanted him for a time.

Although Mr. Curran has been usually considered a man of gallantry, he enjoys an uninterrupted claim to the character of a good father. He has one son, who is now (1798) about to be called to the bar, and two daughters ; to the education of all these he has paid the most affectionate attention.

It has been already observed, that, in his parliamentary character, he has always been attached to the popular cause. Indeed, from his outset in life, he has been a *steady* friend to the legislative independence, to free commerce, and a reform in the representation of Ireland. He has uniformly declared against the war with France, and he has combated, with unremitted vigour, during five years, the coercive system which has been pursued in Ireland. Finding the inefficacy of that opposition, he has withdrawn, along with many of those with whom he had co-operated, from the House of Commons, and is now known to the public only as an advocate. In this capacity he has lately defended many of his unfortunate countrymen ; and is said to be about to retire for a time, and perhaps for ever, from his native country.

As a lawyer Mr. Curran has not particularly distinguished himself, by the extent of his knowledge

or the depth of his researches : he stands, in this respect only, on an equality with his competitors ; it is as an advocate that he outstrips them. Indeed, in this character, he has not, perhaps, his equal in the empire. With Mr. Erskine he has been frequently compared ; but in the opinion of some who have long admired, and attentively considered the respective excellencies of each, the latter holds only a second place.

Mr. Erskine is an acute, grave, laborious, and frequently an eloquent pleader ; he turns the bright side of his client's case to full view, urges its strong parts with the force of a masculine understanding, and covers its weakness with very ingenious sophistry ; but the jury still remember that Mr. Erskine is an advocate, and are on their guard against his arts.

Mr. Curran, while he displays as much acuteness as Mr. E. gets nearer to the heart and passions of his auditors ; and by the ardour and animation of an eloquence neither fictitious nor forced, excludes every feeling and every thought but those which he wishes to excite. In the examination of witnesses, too, Mr. Curran is eminently powerful. In his manner he resembles Mr. Garrow, but, perhaps, excels even that gentleman in probing a rotten cause to the bottom, in eliciting truth from prevarication, and touching the secret strings that actuate the human heart.

Mr. Curran's parliamentary speeches seldom possess the excellence which has marked his professional

sional defences. They display much less of the *mens divini*; they are irregular, and desultory, and seem to be rather the play of his mind than its serious exertion. They, however, abound with admirable strokes of invective, and irony, and though they assist but little in guiding decision, on the point discussed, yet produce a good effect, by holding up political profligacy and corruption to contempt and detestation.

Of classical learning Mr. Curran seems to have early laid in a good store; his allusions to the Roman poets are frequent, and his quotations from them are prompt, and happy. It is a curious circumstance, that to study the Latin classics, and commit to memory remarkable passages, formed a part of Mr. Curran's preparation for the bar; and that he continues, from his experience of its utility, to recommend his practice to the young student of the municipal law.

On the score of person, Mr. Curran owes but little to nature. His stature is low, his figure meagre and ill-formed, and his whole appearance far from being prepossessing. He has, however, an eye which emits the fire of genius, and is admirably calculated to transmit either the scintillations of fancy, or that deep pathos of the heart, which he not only feels himself, but can so powerfully excite in others. Of dress he has always been remarkably, perhaps culpably, negligent; for he has often played *Cicero* in the senate, in the garb of *Scrub!*

THE HONOURABLE DAINES BARRINGTON,

IS brother to the late Lord Barrington, the present Bishop of Durham, and also to Admiral Barrington.

This gentleman was bred to the law, a profession in which he never made any very conspicuous figure, but was successively promoted to be one of the king's counsel, and a Welch judge; the latter of which stations he resigned some years ago, on account of his growing infirmities. He has also possessed several other places under government, such as deputy-keeper of the wardrobe, secretary to Greenwich-hospital, marshal of the admiralty, and commissioner of stores at Gibraltar, the last of which only he now retains.

But if Mr. Barrington is not celebrated as a lawyer, he may justly claim the honour of being accounted a profound and judicious antiquary, an agreeable companion, and a truly worthy man. In 1775, he published an Essay on the Probability of reaching the North Pole, 4to; and in 1781, a volume of Miscellanies, also in 4to. principally on Antiquarian subjects.

In 1766 he presented the world with a volume of *Observations upon the Statutes, from Magna Charta to the 21 James I.* in which he strongly enforces a revival, and adds a proposal for new modelling the whole. This is a work of great merit, and a second edition was called for and published in 1776.

To enumerate Mr. Barrington's literary labours, would be an Herculean task: among them we find an "Account of some Fish in Wales;" "Investigation of the Difference between the past and present Temperature of the Air in Italy;" "Observations on Welch Castles;" A Controversy with Dr. Ducarel concerning "Chestnut Trees;" "Method of keeping Carp alive out of Water;" Two Letters on Cæsar's Invasion;" "Essay on the periodical Appearance of Birds;" "On the distinguished Qualities of the Rabbit and Hare;" "Experiments on the singing of Birds;" "Correction of some Mistakes in Ornithology;" "Account of two Welch Musical Instruments;" "On the Remains of the ancient Cornish Language;" "Inquiry into the Antiquity of Clocks;" "Conjectures relative to certain Remains of vitrified Walls in Scotland;" "On Archery;" "On Musical Instruments;" "On Card-playing."

Most of these are highly entertaining, and some of them evince the most profound research.

This very ingenious man was the friend of Dr. Johnson, and a member of the club in Essex-street, instituted by that great moralist. He still appertains to a society of *choice spirits*, who meet at the Grecian, whither he is supported by his man, and returns in a chair to chambers. The templars, the city beaux, and, indeed, the world in general, are much obliged to him for the improvements made in the garden facing the Thames, which exhibits more modern taste and elegance, than could be well expected from an antiquary.

DR. O'LEARY.

ARTHUR O'LEARY is a native of Cork, in Ireland, and a member of the most numerous and least predominant sect in that country.

After receiving some previous instruction in his native land, he was sent to the continent, in 1747, to prepare him for the situation for which he was designed—that of a priest of the Roman catholic church. He accordingly resided for a considerable time at the college of St. Omer's, and became a member of the order of St. Francis.

On the completion of his studies, he was appointed chaplain to a regiment in the service of the prince in whose dominions he had been educated; but not entering warmly into the measure of engaging the subjects of these kingdoms to enlist in foreign battalions, he incurred the displeasure of those in power, and soon after returned to the country which had given him birth.

By the assistance of some friends he built a small but decent chapel in his native city; and a circumstance soon occurred which procured him some little provincial celebrity. A work, about this time, was published in Cork, entitled “Thoughts on Nature and Religion.” It was written by a Scotch physician; and as no one answered it, Father O'Leary applied to Dr. Man, the bishop of the diocese in which he resided, for permission to enter the lists: now the churches of England and

Rome

Rome happening to think alike on the matter in dispute, he immediately granted leave. Accordingly, soon after this, appeared his "Defence of the Divinity of Christ, and the Immortality of the Soul."

When the parliament of Ireland framed a test-oath for the Roman catholics, many persons of tender consciences scrupled to take it. On this, Mr. O'Leary published his "Loyalty asserted, or the Test-Oath vindicated;" in which he explained the seeming difficulties that occurred, so much to the satisfaction of the nonjuring catholics in his neighbourhood, that they unanimously subscribed.

At that critical period, during the unfortunate war with America, when the combined fleets of France and Spain rode triumphant on the British coast, and threatened an invasion of Ireland, he addressed his catholic countrymen in the most energetic language, and in such an effectual manner, as to merit the thanks of every good citizen.

His next publications were in reply to some severe charges made against the Roman catholics, by the late Mr. Wesley; and in these he attempted to refute that odious imputation by which they are accused of "keeping no faith with heretics!"

Another valuable tract published by Mr. O'Leary is called "An Essay on Toleration, and a Plea for Freedom of Conscience." In this essay the reasoning is solid and persuasive, and the whole tenor of it tends to inculcate the principles of liberality and humanity.

These six pieces have been published in a volume, under the title of "Miscellaneous Tracts;" and it has reached a third, if not a fourth, edition. It is dedicated to the "Monks of St. Patrick," a society of respectable men in Ireland, who associated for the support of the constitution of their country.

In addition to the literary labours already alluded to, an excellent pamphlet published in 1786, and entitled, "A Review of some interesting Periods in the Irish History," is also attributed to him; and Mr. Pratt has drawn his character in a very masterly manner, in his late novel called "Family Secrets," one volume of which is inscribed to the doctor.

Father O'Leary, as he is familiarly called, and who is said to have received a pension from government for his public services, has lately printed a sermon on the present situation of affairs, which was originally preached at St. Patrick's chapel.

BARRY, LORD YELVERTON,

CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

LIKE many other of those men whose talents and virtues have raised them in Ireland to the highest places in the law, Chief Baron Yelverton owes nothing to illustrious birth, to family connexions, or to wealth accumulated by ancestors. If

report

report be true (and it is highly honourable to him), his lordship's immediate progenitor was nothing more than a petty dealer in wool, in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, far from affluent in point of circumstances, and unable to do more for Barry, his son, than to give him the rudiments of a classical education, which enabled him to enter the university of Dublin, as a fizer, a description of students, accustomed to receive both tuition and commons free of expence. At the usual time he obtained a scholarship, a reward given in that university to distinguished merit, and to which besides honourable rank, certain emoluments are annexed, in addition to board, not exceeding, however, on the whole, 20*l.* per annum.

Mr. Yelverton, before the expiration of his scholarship, determined on the law as his profession; but to acquire knowledge therein, and afterwards to be called to the bar, requires "a portion of this world's wealth," which unluckily his finances were unable to afford.

His marriage, shortly after, with a young lady possessed of three or four hundred pounds, removed this embarrassment, and enabled him, with some literary exertions of his own, to keep his terms in London, and obtain his call to the Irish bar in 1764. When he became a barrister, he occupied very obscure lodgings in Essex-street, a part of the town which still continues to be unfashionable. Here he remained for some time, and proved, in his own case, that even first-rate legal

talents may lie long in obscurity. The industry and ability of Mr. Yelverton, however, did at last work their way; but many years elapsed between his assumption of a wig and gown, and his becoming a character known to the public in any other way than as a professional man, labouring successfully for his client and his fee.

We do not, indeed, hear of him in a public capacity, until the occurrence of that important crisis, when the calamities of the country urged its friends to struggle with the then weakened power of Great Britain, and to obtain for Ireland an enlargement of commercial privileges, and shortly afterwards the establishment of a legislative independence. Mr. Yelverton, who had now got into *parliament, co-operated with the other patriots of the day in the pursuit of these objects, and was conspicuous for the energy and boldness of his exertions. When they were once attained, he not only ceased to lend his talents to the popular party, but, on the contrary, he opposed them, ranged himself on the side of the court, and resisted every attempt to attain reform in the representation by means of the volunteer associations.

In 1782, he had been appointed by the Portland administration to succeed Mr. Scott, who was dismissed from the important and confidential place of Attorney-general, and he acquitted himself in that situation, under the succeeding administration, with

* He was returned a member of that memorable parliament which was called in 1776.

such unremitting zeal, in counteracting the attempts of the volunteers, and labouring for their dispersion, as effectually recommended him to the favour of government. The beneficial effects resulting to himself from this conduct were soon apparent, for in 1784, he was raised to the bench, as Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

His elevation, though generally considered as a reward for his political services, was yet not unwelcome to the public, which could recognise, even in the unpopular senator, the learning, the talents, and the professional integrity of a great lawyer. Removed from the House of Commons to the bench, and yet not raised to the peerage, his opportunities of rendering political services to the administration were now greatly lessened. The consequence was, that either relaxing in his zeal from want of occasion to exert it, or finding its fervour cooled by not being raised to a title, like his competitor Scott, who was created Baron Earlsfort in 1784, his politics appeared to be neutralised, until, in 1789, he declared himself a decided friend to the party which asserted the right of Ireland to choose her own regent, and accordingly proffered that office to the Prince of Wales. This, however, was forgotten, and he was created Baron Yelverton, of Avonmore, in the county of Cork, June 16, 1795.

No man possesses a higher character in private life than Lord Yelverton. Simple and unassuming in his manners, with a goodness of heart which
fraud

fraud and cunning but too often make the dupe of their artifices, he is beloved by all, and imposed on, even in the most trivial occurrences of life, by many. Though enjoying a strength and comprehension of intellect fitted to direct and to enlighten senates, he may be governed, misled, or baffled, by the most shallow of his domestics. Of the convivial glass no man is more fond, and yet slander has not charged him with intemperance. His lordship loves, and, without the least inconvenience to his intellects, can bear a considerable quantity of the enlivening grape.

As a public speaker, his leading characteristic is **STRENGTH**. His voice, full, deep, and sonorous, added to a pronunciation slow and solemn, gives great weight to what is dictated by a mind well stored with legal and general knowledge; by an understanding capable of arranging, in the most judicious manner, the excellent materials which it possesses; and by a fancy not destitute of the powers of embellishment. His manner is animated, impressive, and almost overbearing. Of quick conception and feelings, often irritable, and apt to be roused to indignation by every appearance of oppression or of fraud, his lordship appears to display all the sensations of a good man. But on the bench, he seems, perhaps, to possess too little of that stoical apathy, which is so essential to the ascertainment of guilt or innocence; a cause is no sooner opened, than he catches, or supposes he catches, sufficient to guide his decision; and every attempt

attempt which the pleader afterwards makes to remove this first impression, his lordship strenuously resists as an unworthy endeavour to impose on his understanding, and to throw the veil of eloquence around truth and justice. This fault excepted, and to which Lord Mansfield himself was but too prone, Lord Yelverton is allowed to be an excellent judge, of inflexible integrity, and extensive legal learning.

RIGHT HONOURABLE ISAAC CORRY.

THIS gentleman is the son of a reputable, but not very wealthy, merchant of the town of Newry, in the county of Down. A considerable shew of talents, and great professions of independent and steady patriotism, rendered him in early life a favourite with the public; while easy, polished manners, added to an engaging person, procured him the friendship of his townsmen, who, in 1776, became his constituents.

Mr. Corry was bred to the law, and was actually called to the bar in the year 1779, a very remarkable period in the history of Ireland. Soon disgusted, either with the labours of the profession, or the ill success with which those labours were attended, he threw away his bag, which had never been over-charged with briefs, and became an adventurer in the field of politics.

He was not long seated in the House of Commons,

mons, when he became one of the most warm and animated members of the then opposition. His industry, which applied itself to every subject that emerged in the course of parliamentary business, but particularly to the calculations of revenue and finance ; his fluency in debate, the correctness and animation of his language, accompanied with a very successful display of apparent modesty, rendered him not only a shewy, but an useful partisan.

For some years Mr. Corry devoted himself to the popular cause ; he scrutinized every ministerial measure, railed against British influence, contended for place and pension-bills, and laboured, with much energy and effect, to obtain a similar construction of the navigation-act in both countries. But, alas ! the hour was approaching, when he was no longer to grace the opposition bench, tease a lord lieutenant's secretary with patriotic motions, or embarrass the financier with the Cocker-like allusions of arithmetical eloquence !

The Marquis of Buckingham assumed the viceroyship of Ireland in 1787, and having dismissed a very considerable number of officers in the different departments for neglect and speculation, it became necessary to replace them with gentlemen possessing the public confidence. With his lordship, skill in accounts was a first-rate qualification ; who, therefore, could be a fitter object of his favour than Mr. Corry ? Mr. Corry was accordingly nominated to a post in the ordnance, of one thousand pounds per annum. The viceroy, affecting popularity,

larity, thus appointed to office: a popular representative, and the popular representative, wishing to serve himself and the country, accepted the appointment.

From the days of the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Corry has exhibited himself, during a series of viceroys, one of the best servants of administration, and has enjoyed a succession of very lucrative places in the ordnance, revenue, and treasury.

But although Mr. Corry has, in some degree, relinquished the love and applause of his countrymen for the smiles of the court, and the emoluments of office, it is yet but just to say, that he was not, during several years, the forward advocate of the ancient system; nor has he ever, with the shameless zeal of most profelytes, become either the slanderer or the persecutor of the party which he deserted. He has borne himself with a meekness and temperance which disarm resentment, and preserve to him the regard and esteem of those with whom he formerly acted. In many instances he has voted against the minister on questions which, in his patriotic days, he had supported; and in others, he has modestly withdrawn on a division, in order to preserve at once his place and his consistency. In the late contest between the court and the country party, he has, however, been an advocate for the coercive system, and acceded to all the severe laws which were enacted previously to the insurrection.

Mr. Corry's person is manly, and his countenance expressive of spirit and good sense; those scenes of
gaiety

gaiety and dissipation in which part of his juvenile days was spent, and which contributed to give to his manners that polish which we admire, have also impressed on his face some of the indications of the *bon-vivant*. He is still unmarried, having hitherto scorned the trammels of wedlock, and enjoyed the delights of love in the less moral way of a man of fashion.

There is not a more influencing speaker in the Irish House of Commons. His voice is strong and mellow; his diction correct; and his style fluent, copious, moderately ornamented, and always above mediocrity. On most topics he is capable of speaking in a manner which always pleases, and sometimes instructs; but it is principally upon subjects connected with finance, revenue, or commerce, that he appears to the greatest advantage. To these he seems chiefly to have directed his attention, and in these he has acquired very extensive and useful knowledge. Indeed, wherever clearness and strength can recommend a speaker to his auditory, Mr. Corry is calculated to command applause, for his understanding is of the first class. From imagination he derives little aid; his fancy is either sterile, or he represses its exuberance, for in his speeches are to be found few of those flowers which decorate the barren track of investigation, or beautify the field of dry disquisition. His ornaments consist in extreme neatness of diction, smoothness and fluency of periods, and well-judged arrangement of matter. These, added to the correct animation

animation of his manner, the round fullness of his voice, and the effect of a good person, procure for his opinions a great degree of attention and respect.

It was some time since thought that the present Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer would be raised to the peerage, and Mr. Corry appointed to succeed him. That such an arrangement will take place is highly probable. A.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN BERESFORD.

MR. BERESFORD is a younger branch of that family, whose head is the Marquis of Waterford. Educated for the bar, he was called to it so early as 1761, and for some years practised with tolerable success. He was, however, at last induced to quit that laborious profession, where reward can only be obtained by the most rigid industry, for the golden prospects which opened to him in the field of political adventure. Those prospects he has abundantly realized, having raised himself to high office, and still higher influence in the state, spread his branches over the land, and struck his roots too deep in the soil to be shaken even by those dreadful storms which have lately agitated Ireland. Such is his influence, that he is reported to have procured for himself, and his various family connexions, places, salaries, &c. to the amount of above 40,000*l.* per annum.

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For many years back, Mr. Beresford has been at the head of the Irish revenue, in which situation he is said to have acquired and displayed a very profound and extensive knowledge, not only of the affairs of that department, but of the general commerce of the country. That he is a man of business, and indefatigable industry, cannot be denied; and that he possesses talents of some kind, is fully proved by the success which has crowned his endeavours.

The obtaining from parliament a sum of money, not less than half a million, for building, under the name of a custom-house, a palace, part of which he himself was to inhabit, establishes, beyond controversy, the extent of his power, and the success of his address; while the judicious dispositions which he has made, as one of the commissioners for widening the streets of the capital, give him an indisputable title to the praise of great foresight and skill.

Of a long succession of viceroys, with a single exception only, Mr. Beresford is supposed to have had the ear; they have been governed in a great measure by his councils, and they have not proved ungrateful to their adviser. The influence of a man thus circumstanced, must necessarily have become extensive; it has accordingly insinuated itself into every department of the state, and given to that family a degree of strength which enables it almost to dictate to any administration. One viceroy alone (Lord Fitzwilliam) has attempted,
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of late, to govern without the Beresfords, and the consequence was, that he was driven from the helm. Had Lord Cornwallis presided as a civil magistrate, and thwarted their plans, he too, probably, would have felt their power.

Possessing such weight in the councils of the country, it is not to be supposed that Mr. B. ever attempts to quarrel with a measure recommended by administration. In fact, the British cabinet is said to patronize no project, which has not, in the first instance, been approved by him, and a few other men of business who know the country. The celebrated commercial propositions of Mr. Ord, in 1785, however, form an exception. The alterations which were made in those propositions in England, had not Mr. B's previous concurrence; and though he at length reluctantly supported them, they miscarried, as he had very sagaciously presaged*.

Although Mr. Beresford, and his family, have so much influence in the Irish administration, he does not, personally, exert himself in the House, in defending or supporting the measures which he advises. He never speaks but on subjects relating to revenue, or the business of the commissioners during the debates on wide streets. When repelling the insinuations of improper or corrupt conduct, with which he has been sometimes harassed,

* The grand question concerning the Union, also supported by him, as has been said with reluctance, and opposed by his brother, hitherto exhibits a marked affinity to the fate of the commercial propositions.

he shews great anxiety to convince, but his declamation is unimpassioned. His voice is very clear, and sufficiently strong, but it wants variety, and has no harmony in its tones. His diction is, indeed, simple, but not correct, and never rises above the level of colloquial conversation.

Even his political enemies allow Mr. Beresford to possess a very amiable private character; for he must be confessed to be a good friend, father, and husband. In his person, he is tall, and though now an old man, he is yet florid, erect, and handsome.

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN FOSTER,

SPEAKER OF THE IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IF the possession of a strong and correct understanding, much general knowledge, and a profound acquaintance with the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural interests of his native country, constitute a just ground to respect, it is due to Mr. Foster; for undoubtedly one more able, in point of intellect, or better informed in the very important instances we have mentioned, is not to be found among the public men of Ireland.

John Foster is the son of the late Anthony, Lord Chief Baron Foster. He received his education at the university of Dublin, where he was contemporary with the present Chancellor, and Mr. Grattan. In Michaelmas term, 1766, he was called to the Irish bar, while his father, the Chief Baron, was yet on the bench. To Mr. Foster, law was but a nominal

nominal profession; he applied himself to other studies, and no doubt had higher game in view, than the humble situation of a labouring barrister, or even the more dignified one of a *puisné judge*. He accordingly turned his thoughts towards statistical enquiries; and in the most dry and difficult occupations, perhaps, in which the human mind can be employed, he made a proficiency to which he now owes his elevation to the most honourable office which a commoner can fill.

Shortly after his call to the bar, Mr. Foster was returned to serve in Parliament for the county of Louth, and soon became as conspicuous for talents as for knowledge. At that time, indeed, it was less difficult to become eminent in an Irish House of Commons than at present, because the field for exertion being narrow, much ability, comparatively speaking, was not called forth; but in any assembly of legislators, he was qualified to shine; and in that of Ireland, the manly wisdom of his system of corn-laws, a system which he began to form shortly after his coming into Parliament, will give immortality to his name. From being unable to supply two-thirds of her people with bread, in 1770, in consequence of the operation of Mr. Foster's plan, his native country has not only become equal to feed her inhabitants without lying at the mercy of other nations, but actually to export grain to the amount of 200,000l. annually.

After the agriculture of Ireland, the next great

object of Mr. Foster was the linen manufacture, and this has derived, from his zeal and intelligence, nearly equal benefit with agriculture itself. His attention to it has been unremitted; and the regulations, from time to time, introduced by his advice, have not only greatly increased the quantity manufactured and exported, but secured to Irish linens, in foreign countries, a character which must, for many years, operate powerfully in their favour.

During the very period in which Mr. Foster was rendering to Ireland benefits so important, his name was not merely odious, but even execrated among the populace, at least the populace of the metropolis. This is not much to the credit of popular feeling; but there are some circumstances which may account for the fact, notwithstanding that they certainly cannot justify it.

Although Mr. Foster was thus laudably employed in advancing the agriculture and manufactures of the country, he was, at the same time, known to be adverse to every attempt toward establishing the independence of the legislature, and abrogating the unjust restrictions, by which Great Britain had fettered the commerce of Ireland. At that time, too, the manufacturers of the capital were either starving for want of employment, or kept alive by eleemosynary contributions. Protecting duties for these famished artisans were called for, and Mr. Foster opposed them with all his powers. It was natural that the
hungry

hungry should hate the man who thus declared his hostility to measures which, it was hoped, would give them bread. The remote operation of laws, however wise, the bulk of the nation could not foresee; and even if they could foresee, it would not relieve the pressure of present want, or enable the famishing workman to satisfy the calls of nature.

Whatever Mr. Foster's merits, therefore, might be, the populace, reasoning from what was obvious, instead of what was remote, looked on him with detestation; his having declared an opinion against the utility of promoting the silk manufacture, was another cause which raised him a host of enemies. This prejudice continued for several years, and at one time, such was the general detestation, that it was thought necessary to give him a guard for his protection.

In 1785, Mr. Foster was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer; an office for which his comprehensive and methodical mind, added to his extensive knowledge of the resources of the country, admirably fitted him. In 1786, he, however, resigned the Chancellorship, on being chosen speaker of the House of Commons, in which dignified situation he has since continued. At the commencement of the late Parliament, the friends of Mr. W. B. Ponsonby made a powerful effort in support of *his* pretensions to the chair; but they were unable to counteract that influence which the experience, talents, and information of Mr.

Foster deservedly gave him. He was accordingly chosen then by a large majority; and, by the present House of Commons, he was elected without opposition, most of the popular members having seceded.

The duties of this high office are discharged by him with great ability. Deeply read in the law and privileges of parliament, no incident occurs in which he is not able to guide the conduct of the house, while his punctuality, love of order, and good taste, give facility to business, and a decorous elegance to legislative arrangements.

As a politician, Mr. Foster seems formerly to have acted steadily upon one principle, that of promoting, to the utmost of his power, the interests of Ireland, so far as those interests did not interfere with any of the interests of Great Britain. Where a competition could exist, until the agitation of the question concerning the Union, he has uniformly been swayed by the latter. There is another strong feature in his political character; he has always professed himself adverse to the admission of Catholics to the privileges of the constitution. On the bill for allowing them to vote at elections, he delivered a speech against that measure, confessedly the best which was made in either house on the subject.

But, within the last three months, an entire change seems to have taken place in Mr. Foster's conduct and opinions. Perceiving that an union might not only prove unfriendly to his own interests,

rests, but be tantamount to the disfranchisement of that branch of the legislature, over which he presides, he has manfully opposed all the allurements, and all the threats of the minister, and obtained the thanks not only of his own constituents, but the applause of the whole nation.

In private life, Mr. Foster appears rather high bred than affable; displaying more of the lofty manners of the last age, than the easy and familiar habits of the present. His style of living is magnificent, and his relish for *improving* insatiable. To these causes, perhaps, it is to be attributed, that, with an income of not less than 800*l.* *per annum*, he is still an embarrassed man*. Mrs. Foster was created Baroness Oriel, in 1790.

CHARLES BURNEY, MUS.D. F.R.S

THIS gentleman, whose celebrity is equally great in the literary and the musical world, is a native of Shrewsbury, and was born in 1726. He received the rudiments of his education at the free grammar-school of that town, and completed it at the public school of Chester. At the latter place he commenced his musical studies, under Mr. Baker, or-

* In order to rescue Mr. F. from dependence, his countrymen are said to have lately subscribed a large sum of money, which is to be presented to him, as a reward for his late meritorious exertions.

ganist of the cathedral, who was a pupil of Dr. Blow.

He returned to Shrewsbury about the year 1741, and continued the study of music, under his half-brother, Mr. James Burney, who was an eminent organist and teacher in that town.

In 1744 he met with Dr. Arne at Chester, who perceiving his talents to be respectable, prevailed upon his friends to send him to London. He continued to profit under the instructions of that celebrated master full three years. In 1749, he was elected organist of St. Dionis Back-church, Fenchurch-street, with an annual salary of only thirty pounds; and the same year was engaged to take the organ-part at the new concert established at the King's-arms, Cornhill, instead of that which had been held at the Swan-tavern, burnt down the year before. At this time he composed for Drury-lane theatre the following musical pieces, viz. Robin Hood, a comic opera, by Moses Mendez; and Queen Mab, a pantomime; which last had astonishing success, being played every winter for nearly thirty years.

Being in an ill state of health, which, in the opinion of his physicians, indicated a consumption, he was prevailed upon to retire into the country. Accordingly he went to Lynn Regis, in Norfolk, where he was chosen organist, with a salary of one hundred pounds a-year. He continued nine years there, and formed the design of compiling his *General History of Music*.

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In 1760, his health being re-established, he gladly returned once more to the metropolis, with a large and young family, and entered upon his profession with an increase of profit and reputation. His eldest daughter, who was then about eight years old, obtained great notice in the musical world, by her astonishing performances on the harpsichord.

Soon after his arrival in London, he composed several much-admired concertos; and in 1766 he brought out at Drury-lane theatre a translation of Rousseau's *Devin du Village*, which he had executed during his residence at Lynn. It had, however, no great success.

In 1769, he had the honorary degree of Doctor of Music conferred upon him by the university of Oxford; on which occasion he performed an exercise in the musical school of that university. This exercise, consisting of an anthem of great length, with an overture, airs, recitatives, and choruses, was several times afterwards performed at the Oxford music meetings; and, under the direction of the famous Emanuel Bach, in St. Katherine's church, Hamburgh.

The year following he travelled through France and Italy, as well with a view to improvement in his profession, as to collect materials for his intended *History of Music*, an object which he had seldom out of his mind, from the time he first conceived the idea of such a work. In 1771, he published his "Musical Tour; or, Present State of Music in France

France and Italy." This work was very well received by the public, and is so good a model for travellers to keep their journals by, that Dr. Johnson professedly adopted it as his when he visited the Hebrides. Speaking of his own book, "I had," said the Doctor, "that clever dog Burney's Musical Tour in my eye."

In 1772, he travelled through the Netherlands, Germany, and Holland, and in the course of the next year he published an account of his journey in two volumes octavo. The same year he was also elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1776, appeared the first volume in quarto of his "*General History of Music*." The remaining volumes of this very elaborate and intelligent work were published at irregular periods; and the four, of which it now consists, were not completed till the year 1789.

In 1779, at the desire of Sir John Pringle, Dr. Burney drew up for the Philosophical Transactions "An Account of Little CROTCH, the Infant Musician, now Professor of Music in the University of Oxford." The grand musical festival in 1785, in commemoration of HANDEL, held in Westminster abbey, was considered as deserving of a particular memoir; the historian of music was therefore fixed upon as the most proper person to draw it up. Accordingly, the same year, a splendid volume was published by Dr. Burney, in quarto, for the benefit of the musical fund. In this work the Doctor displayed eminent talents as a biographer; and the

Life

Life of Handel is one of the few good memoirs which exist in our language.

In 1796, he published the "Life of Metastasio," in three volumes, octavo; but this performance wants that arrangement and judicious selection which characterize his former publications. Besides these productions, Dr. Burney wrote "The Cunning Man;" "An Essay towards the History of Comets;" "Plan of a Public Music School," &c. &c.

His musical works, in addition to those already mentioned, are: Sonatas for two Violins and a Bass, two parts. Six Cornet Pieces, with an Introduction and Fugue for the Organ. A Cantata and Songs. Six Duets for two German Flutes. Six Concertos, for Violins, &c. in eight parts. Two Sonatas for a Piano Forte, Violin, and Violoncello, two parts. Six Harpsichord Lessons; &c. &c.

Dr. Burney has been twice married, and has had eight children, of whom several have manifested very superior abilities.

His eldest daughter was celebrated for her extraordinary musical powers.

The second, Madame D'ARLAY, is universally known and admired as the author of *Evelina*, *Cecilia*, and *Camilla*.

The eldest son, JAMES, sailed round the world with Captain Cooke, and afterwards commanded the *Bristol*, of 50 guns, in the East-Indies: he has published some judicious tracts on the best means of defending our island against an invading enemy.

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The second son, CHARLES BURNEY, LL.D. is master of a respectable academy at Greenwich, and well known in the learned world by his profound knowledge of the Greek language, and his masterly and classical criticisms in the Monthly Review.

For many years Doctor BURNEY resided in the house (No. 36, St. Martin's-street, Leicester-fields), formerly occupied by Sir Isaac Newton; during the last ten, having been appointed organist of Chelsea hospital, he has inhabited an elegant suit of apartments in that college, and enjoys a handsome independency. He still spends several hours every day in his library, which is stored with a great variety of valuable and curious books, many of them collected during his travels.

WILLIAM HERSCHEL, LL.D. F.R.S.

THIS country has the fairest right to enroll the subject of the present article in the number of her ornaments, as his extraordinary abilities have been brought into action, strengthened, and properly directed, under the auspices of the British sovereign.

Dr. William Herschel is a native of Hanover, and was born November 15, 1738. He was the second of four sons, all of whom were brought up to their father's profession, which was that of a musician. In addition to these, Mr. Herschel, senior, had two daughters; and therefore, being burden-
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ed with so large a family, and in a poor country too, it is not at all a matter of wonder that the education which he bestowed on his children was but scanty. Finding, however, in William a lively and inquisitive genius, beyond what appeared in the other sons, he gave him the advantage of a French master, under whom he made a rapid progress in the attainment of that language. Luckily, the tutor had a metaphysical head, and so fond was he of his favourite study, as well as those branches of science which are connected with it, that he was desirous of making his pupil also acquainted therewith. From this worthy man young Herschel gained a tolerable knowledge of logic, ethics, and metaphysics; and his attainments therein excited in his mind a strong and insatiable thirst for learning, with the commendable resolution of exerting himself to the utmost to improve his stock of intellectual treasures. These, indeed, were all his inheritance, except a musical instrument, and some manuscript music.

With this store, unpromising as it was, our adventurer bade adieu to his native country while the flames of war were spreading around it, and arrived in London in the year 1759, whither, it is said, his father and himself accompanied some Hanoverian troops, as part of their military band of music. With these the old man returned, leaving the young one behind to try his fortune in England.

Here, he was lost in the crowd of candidates for employment,

employment, and we may well suppose that his situation in a strange country, without friends, and in but indifferent circumstances, must have been both painful and irksome. Mr. Herschel had not only a steady but a virtuous mind. Hereby he was enabled to bear up with fortitude against disappointments, and to persevere with alacrity in improving himself in an occupation, which hardly seemed to promise him a comfortable subsistence.

Finding but little prospect of succeeding to his wish in the metropolis, he prudently resolved upon going into the country; where musical professors being few, the chance of success must be the greater. After visiting different places in the north of England, his good fortune brought him to Halifax, where an organist being wanted, his merits were tried, and he procured the appointment. Here he also taught music with approbation and profit. The love of learning however still prevailed, and at this place he devoted his spare hours to the study of the languages, beginning with the Italian, on account of its intimate connection with his profession. From the Italian he proceeded to the Latin, in which he made an eminent progress. He then attempted the Greek, but after a little application he abandoned the study of this language, considering it as too dry and abstracted for his purpose.

In these pursuits Mr. Herschel was entirely self-taught; and he holds out, in consequence, an excellent

cellent and pertinent example to those young persons whose education has been circumscribed within common limits, through the penury or narrow-mindedness of their friends.

A determined heart, and persevering application, we see, from this instance, will overcome obstacles that are apparently insurmountable.

But it was not to the dead and living languages only that Mr. Herschel bent his ardent and resolute mind. He attempted to gain a knowledge of the most abstruse sciences. His first effort was to make himself master of the *theory of harmonies*; and it is observable, that the book which he made choice of for this purpose, was no other than the profound and intricate treatise of the learned Dr. Smith upon that subject. He got through this work, however, without any assistance; and so great was the pleasure which he derived from it, that he resolved upon studying the other branches of mathematical learning. He began with algebra, which he soon mastered; thence he proceeded to Euclid, and so on to fluxions. The groundwork being thus laid, the study of the other sciences became easy.

His situation at Halifax was favourable to his grammatical and mathematical pursuits; and it is well that he thus laid in a thorough stock of sound knowledge, in what may be called his retirement. In 1766 he exchanged this place for one of a very different description, being elected organist to the Octagon chapel at Bath. Here he entered at once
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upon a great round of professional business, performing at the rooms, theatre, oratorios, and public and private concerts, besides having a number of pupils. In such a hurry of employment, and in the immediate circle of luxury and amusement, very few men of Mr. Herschel's profession and age would have found time to pursue studies seemingly so unprofitable and uninteresting as mathematics.

So far, however, from relaxing in his scientific studies, he pursued them with increasing ardour, and after a day of hard labour, he commonly retired at night to his mathematical books, and spent many hours in an unwearied attention to the most abstruse questions in geometry and fluxions.

In the Ladies' Diary, for 1780, appeared an elegant and profound answer by him to a very difficult prize-question, respecting the vibrations of a musical chord loaded in the middle with a small weight.

About this time his studies were chiefly directed to optics and astronomy. The pleasure which he had experienced from viewing the heavens through a two-feet Gregorian telescope, he had borrowed at Bath, made him desirous of possessing a complete set of astronomical instruments. His first object was to get a larger telescope, and being ignorant of the price at which such instruments are usually charged, he desired a friend in London to buy one for him. This gentleman, surprised at the sum demanded for the telescope, declined purchasing it till he had informed Mr. Herschel of the circumstance

stance. Our astronomer's astonishment was equal to that of his friend's; but instead of dropping his pursuit, he formed what many would have regarded as a most romantic resolution, that of making a telescope for himself. He did not content himself with a speculative idea, but from the scanty instructions he could gather out of optical treatises, actually set about this arduous undertaking. Disappointment succeeded disappointment; but all this only served to act as a stimulus to his ardent mind, and at length his perseverance was crowned with such success, that, in 1774, he enjoyed the exquisite satisfaction of beholding the heavens through a five-feet Newtonian reflector of his own workmanship. Our modern Galileo did not rest at this attainment, great as it was, but, with a laudable ambition, set about making instruments of a greater magnitude than had hitherto been known. After constructing those of seven, and even ten feet, he thought of forming one not less than double the latter size. So great was his patience, so determined his perseverance, that in perfecting the parabolical figure of a seven-feet telescope, he did not make less than two hundred specula before he obtained one that would bear any power that was applied to it.

While he was thus laboriously employed in his mathematical pursuits, he did not neglect the immediate duties of his profession. Yet so much did his new occupation engage his mind, that he has frequently stolen from the theatre or the concert-

room, to look at the stars, and then return again in time to bear his part among the musical performers. This constancy to Urania was at length most bountifully rewarded, by the discovery of a new planet in our system, to which he gave the name of *Georgium Sidus*; and which foreign astronomers at first termed *Herschel*, but more lately, and generally, that planet has been called Urania.

This important discovery was made in the night of the 13th of March, 1781. It was by no means a mere accidental circumstance which favoured our astronomer with the view of this planet; but the result of a regular, patient, and scientific chain of observations. When he first saw it, he was not quite certain that it belonged to our system, as a planet, but rather as a comet; however, a closer enquiry enabled him to ascertain, with exactness, its planetary disk, as well as its motion.

This discovery was communicated in the course of the same year to the Royal Society; and in consequence of it, Mr. Herschel was unanimously elected a member, and had the annual gold medal bestowed upon him for his service to the interests of science.

The year following his Majesty took him under his immediate protection. On this he quitted Bath and his musical instruments, and went to live at Slough, near Windsor, at a house appointed for him by his royal patron, who constituted him his own private astronomical observer, with a handsome pension.

Here

Here he was enabled to carry on his projects with vigour, and those which had hitherto failed of success were now brought to perfection. While at Bath, he had formed the bold scheme of constructing a telescope of thirty feet, and actually made several trials to carry his object into effect. But though he failed there, since his residence in the neighbourhood of Windsor he has far exceeded this design, and completed an instrument of no less than forty! The irregularities in the speculum, and the impossibility of rendering the parts of so enormous an instrument as this mathematically exact, have hitherto prevented his being able to make any actual observations with it. It is a vulgar error, that the discoveries of Dr. Herschel have been occasioned by the enormous magnifying power of his telescope; the fact is, that no such large power is necessary, or useful; and that all Dr. Herschel's discoveries have been made with reflectors of from ten to twenty feet, and with powers of from sixty to three hundred. His discoveries are to be ascribed to his laudable perseverance, and not to the size of his grand telescope, which is rather an object of curiosity than of utility.

In 1783 he discovered a volcanic mountain in the moon, and in 1787 made further observations upon that planet, and found two others therein, which emitted fire from their summits. In prosecuting his enquiries respecting his own planet (if we may be allowed so to express ourselves), he

has discovered it to be surrounded with rings, and to have six satellites.

In consequence of these important additions to the stock of national knowledge, our astronomer had the honour of receiving, from the university of Oxford, the degree of a Doctor of Laws; which is the more creditable, as that learned body is very sparing of its academic honours to persons who have not been educated within its walls.

Dr. Herschel has been a regular contributor to the Philosophical Transactions ever since his first communication in 1781, respecting his discovery of the new planet. Some of his papers are extremely curious; and he has hazarded a few bold conjectures respecting the sun, and other planetary bodies, which would hardly have been received from a less accurate observer.

In his astronomical pursuits the doctor is materially assisted by his sister, Miss Caroline Herschel, who has distinguished herself greatly by her application to this sublime study, and has communicated to the Royal Society some very ingenious reports of observations made by her upon the starry orbs.

Dr. Herschel is a man of unassuming manners; a free, communicative, and pleasant companion; and he enjoys that vigour of constitution which is so essential to an astronomical observer in a climate like that of England. It may be hoped, that his name will endure as long as the planetary system, to illustrate which he has devoted his life.

SIR NASH GROSE,

IS a native of London, and son of Edward Grose, Esq. Being designed for the bar, he was admitted of Lincoln's Inn, in Trinity term, 1756. In a short time he discovered very respectable professional abilities, and established a character which soon procured him an extensive share of business.

After about eight years' practice as a barrister, he was called to the degree of serjeant, and being considered as a sound lawyer, on the decease of that most respectable man, the late patriotic Serjeant Glynn, he took the lead in the court of Common Pleas. Mr. Grose had the happiness of uniting what very few attain, the talent of a special pleader with a considerable portion of eloquence.

In 1787, without the intervention of great friends, powerful alliances, or parliamentary interest, he was raised to a seat in the court of King's Bench, of which he is now the third judge: and soon after this promotion his majesty conferred the honour of knighthood upon him.

In his judicial capacity, he has conducted himself so as to avoid reflection or reproach; and this, in the present times, evinces no small degree of integrity. Being entirely unconnected with political parties, he cannot reasonably hope to succeed to the Chief Justiceship of either of the courts, and,

therefore, has no other object in view, but to dispense justice with credit to himself and advantage to the public; for he is now arrived at what to him may be looked on as the *ne plus ultra* of his profession.

P.

MR. KEMBLE,

IS brother to the celebrated actress, Mrs. Siddons, and the eldest son of Mr. Roger Kemble, who was many years manager of an itinerant company of comedians.

When a boy, Mr. K. used to appear on his father's stage in such characters as suited his age, but was not by him designed for a theatrical life. The Kemble family are catholic, and the old gentleman placed his son John at a Roman catholic academy in Staffordshire; whence he was sent to the English college at Douay, in order to be qualified for the church.

While there, he was equally noted for the strength of his memory, and admired for his happy mode of delivery.

But being, at length, tired of the college trammels, he forsook his studies, and returned to England, before the age of twenty, without the consent of his family. Having landed at Bristol, he walked to Gloucester, where hearing that the
company

company was at Brecknock, he proceeded thither, but met with a cool reception ; his father, indeed, actually refused to relieve him ; but the actors generously assisted him with money, by way of subscription, to which the manager, according to a report, which we trust is unfounded, was with difficulty persuaded to add a guinea !

On this, he returned to Gloucestershire with his pittance, and joined Chamberlin's company, with which he made his first essay on the stage of a small town in that county. His profits were scanty, and his distress great, which at times involved him in rather ludicrous situations, some of which he will relate with much good humour among his convivial companions.

Kemble's chief fault seemed to be an unaccountable negligence, but he was still looked on as a rising actor. In hopes of procuring more profit and reputation than his present situation afforded him, he joined with the manager of Cheltenham theatre, in order to give a miscellaneous entertainment. Young Kemble was to lecture, and his partner to entertain the company with *sight-of-hand tricks* ! The one obtained great credit by his eloquence, but neither of them gained much money ; and we have only to lament, that such men should have been reduced so low by the frowns of the fickle goddess.

After this, our theatrical hero joined a company at Worcester, where he remained until his sister introduced him to Mr. Younger ; from which

time he gradually improved, until he obtained a high degree of eminence in his profession.

About this period he produced "Bellifarius," a tragedy, and a poem called "The Palace of Mercy."

From Younger's company he was introduced to that of Mr. Wilkinfon, at York *; who, being appointed manager at Edinburgh, took him along with him; there he was well received, and delivered a *lecture on oratory*, which gained him reputation as a man of letters.

Mr. Kemble played in Dublin in 1782, at Smock-alley theatre, and succeeded admirably, in Jephson's "Count of Narbonne;" but his merit was not sufficiently prized. His sister soon after procured him an engagement at Drury-lane theatre.

His first appearance in the metropolis was in Hamlet, and but few first appearances in London have given greater satisfaction. His solemn demeanor and style of acting are admirably suited to the character. He has often repeated it, but always in an improved state; and his Hamlet is now, perhaps, as finished a portrait as any on the stage. Since that period he has performed a great variety of characters, always respectably, and sometimes with acknowledged excellence. His

* The audience of that city being accustomed to the rant of a favourite provincial actor, did not relish him, "because he could not *sout* like Cummins!"

Coriolanus, Macbeth, Octavian, &c. are considered as the *ne plus ultra* of the imitative art.

His person, action, and deportment, joined to a distinct and classical utterance, fit him particularly for a tragedian. The pathetic complaints of Jaffier are, however, delivered with torpor, nor is his voice equal to the bursts of rage in Richard, or Macbeth. In the lover he is also defective; but in the despair of Beverly, the jealousy of Othello, and the inquietude of royal John, he is peculiarly successful. His great fault is the always aiming at being original, in which he frequently fails; but yet in these attempts he sometimes strikes out new beauties. On the whole, he is one of the first performers of the present day*.

Mr. Kemble has produced a farce called the "Projects," and has altered Bickerstaff's comedy of "'Tis Well it's no Worse", into a farce called the "Pannel," as well as Louvet's "Lodoiska;" he has also fitted the old play of "Love in many Masks" for the modern stage,

On Mr. King's quitting the management of Drury lane, Mr. Kemble was appointed his successor; but it is certain the house, under his control, was not very successful: this, however, may be attributed partly to want of taste in the town, and partly to want of countenance in a certain quarter;

* It is not generally understood, that Mr. K. has ever played a singing part; he, however, performed *Richard Cœur de Lion* upwards of twenty nights. It was with some difficulty the leader of the band could get him to *keep time*.

for he assuredly possesses the talents requisite to judge of new pieces, and a sufficient knowledge of the stage to get up such as are old in the best manner.

Mr. Kemble married the widow of the late Mr. Brereton. It is said that the daughter of a deceased minister of state was strongly attached to him, which coming to the father's ears, he prudently offered a fortune of 3000*l.* on condition he would marry, immediately, any lady he liked. He accordingly cast his eyes on Mrs. Brereton, and thus secured to himself a considerable accession of fortune, and a most excellent wife.

MISS SEWARD.

THIS lady, so well known, and so much respected in the literary world, is the only daughter of the reverend Mr. Seward, rector of Eyam, in Derbyshire: prebendary and canon-residentiary of Lichfield.

Being an author himself, he was fond of giving his daughter a taste for letters, particularly poetry; and at the early age of three years she could repeat the Allegro of Milton: and at nine she recited the three first books of Paradise Lost with spirit and propriety. About the same age she converted several of the psalms into English verse.

But

But her mother not approving this turn for poetry, persuaded her to relinquish her literary pursuits ; she still, however, indulged now and then in her beloved occupation, and sacrificed by stealth to the muses.

A friend of the family happening to doubt whether the poems shewn as her's had not received some paternal assistance, he called one evening when he knew her father was absent, and requested the young lady to favour him with a few lines on any subject, adding " Let me write a stanza, " and you finish it ;" he accordingly indited one, and left her : on the succeeding morning she presented him with some verses, which convinced him of her merit, and his own injustice.

On the death of an only and beloved sister, which happened a few years after, she wrote an Elegy as she was sitting in the garden. Other poems flowed rapidly from her pen ; and becoming acquainted with the late Lady Miller, of Bath-Easton, she was a frequent and successful candidate for the prize bestowed at that villa.

Her first regular publication was a beautiful Elegy on the death of Captain Cook, which, with an " Ode to the Sun" (a Bath-Easton prize poem), was published in quarto (1780). In the course of the next year, she composed a " Monody" on her friend Major André. These two productions induced Dr. Darwin to say, that she was the inventress of " epic elegy." Since that period, she has written " A Poem to the Memory of Lady Miller ;"

" Louisa"

“Louisa,” a poetical novel; an Ode on “General Elliot’s return from Gibraltar;” and “Llangollen Vale.”

Miss Seward has also distinguished herself as a translator, for she has clothed one of the most elegant of the Latin poets in an English dress, having presented the public with a new version of several of the Odes of Horace *. They have been thought somewhat too diffuse, but are allowed to exhibit proofs of a classical taste, and fine imagination.

EARL OF CLARE,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.

WHETHER we consider the importance resulting from official situation, or that which great activity, considerable talents, and indefatigable zeal, always attach to their possessor, this nobleman is certainly the first man in the Irish administration. Whatever may be the fate of that unhappy country, so far as that fate is influenced by the present contest, it may be fairly attributed to his wisdom or his weakness, to his firmness or his folly.

* We have been informed, since the publication of the first edition, that this lady is unacquainted with Latin, and therefore incapable of translating from that language; if so, the work mentioned above, ought to be termed a *paraphrase*.

Lord

Lord Clare, although now occupying the highest law-office in Ireland, and possessing almost unlimited influence in its councils, cannot boast a long line of noble ancestors.

He is removed but two degrees from a man in the humblest walk of society—a *catholic* peasant—whose life was distinguished only by a gradual transition from extreme poverty to an honourable competency, and that too acquired by useful industry.

With the change produced in the circumstances of the family, a change seems to have also taken place in its creed, for while yet a very young man, we find the late Mr. Fitzgibbon, his lordship's father, a staunch and zealous protestant. It is said, however, that he was originally destined to officiate at a popish altar, and that he had actually received the education deemed necessary to fit him for that station. If this account be true, it is at least certain that either the maturity of his judgment, or a change in his views, soon made him *recant his errors*; for he was yet in early life, when he was called to the Irish bar, to which catholics were then inadmissible, and at which he afterwards became a highly-esteemed and successful pleader.

During that period, the business of the courts was monopolized by a few eminent barristers; but the talents and the industry of Mr. Fitzgibbon forced him forward in spite of envy, and in a few years he himself became one of those who, in some respects, claimed all the honours and the emoluments

ments of the profession. So successful, indeed, was he, that, in the course of a life not uncommonly long, he is said to have realised a fortune of nearly 8000 *l.* per annum.

Of this gentleman, Lord Clare was the only son. A profession in which the father had been so successful, was naturally chosen by him for a favourite child, who was to support the future fortunes and honours of the family. He was accordingly entered, at an early age, a student of the university of Dublin, where he was contemporary with some of the most celebrated men who have distinguished themselves in all the recent and important transactions that have occurred in Ireland; such as the late Mr. Flood, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Foster, the present speaker of the Irish Commons, &c. He is yet remembered by some of the old members of that seminary, on account of the ability and industry which even then marked his character.

Having completed his course of collegiate studies, and kept his terms at the Temple, he was at length called to the Irish bar, with advantages possessed by few at the outset of life, and these were supported by a high character, and a fortune which, even independent of any increase from the success of forensic labours, secured to him something infinitely beyond a competence. Affluence, however, did not produce in Mr. Fitzgibbon what is too commonly its effect on the youthful mind—an indolent apathy. His assiduity in professional pursuits was not exceeded by any of his rivals at the bar ;

bar; and though there was no man who drank more deeply of the cup of pleasure, yet few toiled through more business, or in the discharge of it displayed more of that accuracy of knowledge which is the result only of attentive industry.

It was by the observance of a rule of life which none but strong minds have ever prescribed to themselves, namely, "to suffer no portion of time to pass without filling it either with business or with pleasure," that Mr. F. was enabled to unite those generally incompatible pursuits. With such application, and with talents certainly above the common level, though, perhaps, far below that at which his friends would place them, he soon rose to eminence.

In the House of Commons, of which he became a member for the University, in 1776, shortly after his call to the bar; by the operation of this principle, aided by a kind of eloquence, which, though it was neither very brilliant, nor very persuasive, yet being accompanied by a certain air of confident superiority, a considerable effect was produced; and he was soon esteemed one of the most efficient supporters of the party he espoused.

Without affecting popularity at any time, he launched into political life, uninvited, and unbought, the partisan of the court, and the professed contemner of the *profanum vulgus*: in this sentiment he has been wonderfully consistent. From his first entrance he has not, in one single instance, started from the track before him. His conduct has been marked by an unvaried and
uniform

uniform support of the British cabinet, and an avowed, perhaps a revolting contempt, for the principles, motives, and objects, of what has been called the popular party.

He had not been long in parliament, before the calamities brought upon Ireland by the continuance of the American contest, rendered it necessary to seek, in an enlargement of her commerce, for some remedy against a general bankruptcy. The Commons, urged by the cries of a famishing people, called for what was then denominated "a free trade," and Mr. F. much to his honour, *did not oppose* the application. The defenceless state in which the kingdom had been left, by drawing off the troops to serve on a distant continent, suggested to the community the necessity of arming for self-defence. Mr. F. appeared in the ranks as a private; but it would be unjust to charge him with participating in those high-flown sentiments of national pride, and love of freedom, which soon began to actuate the volunteer army, and which, no doubt, gave *some* strength to the subsequent declaration of legislative independence by the Irish parliament. He rather seemed to be carried forward by the irresistible impulse of national sentiment, than to have advanced with it toward the goal. Accordingly, when an occasion occurred of retiring without dishonour from a cause so little congenial to his principles, he separated from the vulgar herd. The moment chosen by him was during the discussion of the long-agitated question,
relative

relative to the SIMPLE REPEAL of the sixth of GEO. III. From that time to the present he has continued the zealous advocate for a strong and energetic government, and the powerful opponent of every man who attempted to reform, or innovate on present establishments.

When Mr. Yelverton was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, Mr. Fitzgibbon succeeded him as Attorney-general. No man was ever better fitted for the office. His firmness, his confidence in his own powers, and the bold tone with which he hurled defiance at his parliamentary opponents, on every question connected with legal or constitutional knowledge, often appalled the minor members of opposition, and sometimes kept even their chiefs at bay. These qualities, however, did not always constitute a sure defence. The repulse which on one memorable evening of debate he experienced on the part of the present LORD, then Mr. O'Neil, of Shane's Castle, whose manly and honest mind caught fire at the haughty and dictatorial language with which the attorney-general had dared to address him, is remembered by those who were then conversant in the politics of the day, and probably will not soon be forgotten.

But though this daring, and, as it is often called, overbearing spirit, did sometimes miscarry, in general it ensured him success. A remarkable instance of its efficacy occurred at a time when the minds of the people were extremely agitated by the rejecting of their petitions for reform, and for

protecting duties. At a moment when the ferment seemed to have arisen to a very dangerous height, an aggregate meeting of *all the inhabitants* of the metropolis was, on a requisition of several respectable persons, convened by the high sheriffs of Dublin. The attorney-general was then the most unpopular man in the country; and the mob had, for some time, been in the habits of offering personal insult to those whom they suspected of being adverse to their wishes. Unawed, however, by these circumstances, Mr. F. attended only by one or two friends, made his way through the crowd, reached the hustings, interrupted a popular orator in the midst of his harangue, told the sheriffs that they had acted illegally in calling the meeting, commanded them to leave the chair, and threatened them with an information *ex officio** if they presumed to continue in it. He then left the astonished assembly, amidst the hisses of the mob; and the sheriffs instantly dissolved the meeting.

Hitherto Mr. F. had acted with an administration which possessed both the power and will to reward his exertions. When the event of the king's illness, in 1789, unhinged the Irish government, he stood in different circumstances. On that occasion, a majority of the parliament, among whom were many of the oldest servants of the crown, declared for the right of Ireland, as an independent country, to choose its own regent. The British cabinet

* A prosecution without the intervention of a Grand Jury, revived by him.

controverted that right, and insisted that the regent chosen by the British Parliament should be the regent for both countries. Mr. F. though no longer supported by a majority, remained firm to his English friends, and resisted, with his wonted boldness, not only the voice of the people, but what was of more immediate concern, a vast parliamentary majority. The unexpected recovery of his Majesty, to Mr. F. certainly an happy event, rewarded his superior good fortune, or his greater foresight; for on Lord Lifford's death, he was created a baron, and appointed Chancellor: it is also not a little memorable, that he is the first Irishman who has filled that important office!

So far as respects justice, the country has had no reason to lament his appointment, for his activity and dispatch have made chancery-suits almost cease to be an inheritance. He has banished chicane and unnecessary delay from his court; and though his decrees may sometimes be blamed as premature, the paucity of appeals seems to augur, that all complaint on this score is groundless.

Since his elevation to the bench and the peerage, he has had repeated opportunities of displaying his former spirit, and expressing, with even more effect than before, his detestation of popular claims, and particularly that of a reform. He has shewn an equal abhorrence of the catholic pretensions to share in the privileges of the constitution. Of their claim to the representative franchise, it is known that he was the decided enemy; and though by

the paternal regard of his majesty, and the prudence of the British cabinet, the concession of that privilege was recommended to the Irish legislature, and adopted in consequence of that recommendation, yet *his* opinion remained unchanged. With respect to subsequent claims, the British ministry have paid more attention to his advice.

His Lordship who has been lately in London, was reported to have left the seals in commission, in order to complete a plan which at one time would have been viewed with dislike by both countries. But such is now the miserable state of his native land, that any change would appear to be for the better ; and if an UNION were attended with nothing else than a cessation of carnage, every good man must rejoice at the prospect of it.

The Irish themselves, who surely may be allowed to be competent judges of a matter that so nearly interests themselves, are, however, at present of a different opinion, and the part acted by his lordship, on this occasion, seems calculated to render him more unpopular than ever.

RICHARD CUMBERLAND, ESQ.

IS the son of Dr. Denison Cumberland, late Bishop of Clonfert and Killaloe, in Ireland, and great grandson of that learned English divine, Dr. Richard Cumberland, Bishop of Peterborough,
author

author of a treatise on the Law of Nature, *Origines Gentium*, &c. By the mother's side he is grandson of the celebrated critic Dr. Richard Bentley.

Mr. Cumberland was educated at Trinity college, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. By the friendship of the late Lord Sackville, better known by the title of Lord George Germaine, he was introduced to the office of Trade and Plantations, where he succeeded the late Mr. Pownal as secretary, in which post he continued until the suppression of that appointment by Mr. Burke's bill, when he retired on a pension.

Mr. Cumberland, while a very young man, wrote some verses on the birth of the Prince of Wales. His first publication was the "Banishment of Cicero," which was refused by Mr. Garrick, but appeared in print in 1761. This should have been rather called a dramatic poem than a tragedy.

The "Summer's Tale," and the "Brothers," two comedies, were his next productions; but neither of these have added much to his reputation.

In 1771, he was reconciled to Garrick, with whom he had been on bad terms ever since the refusal of his tragedy, and that gentleman brought out his "West Indian" in a capital style. This piece has stamped Mr. Cumberland's character as an excellent writer for the stage, and it is certainly one of our most sterling comedies.

He now began to be esteemed one of the best dramatic writers of the age, and also one of the most prolific; for next year he produced the "Fa-

shionable Lover," which was well received; as was likewise, in 1774, his lively farce called the "Fate of Pandora, or a Trip to Newmarket." His "Choleric Man," which came forth in 1775, is said to have some affinity to Sir Richard Steele's *Tender Husband*: his "Battle of Hastings," a tragedy, was rather unfortunate. In 1776, he published a thin quarto volume of Odes.

About the year 1780, he was sent on national business to Madrid, but did not appear there in a public character. On his return, he published, in 1782, "Anecdotes of eminent Painters in Spain, during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," two volumes, 12mo. Next year he brought out a tragedy on the stage, called the "Mysterious Husband," and addressed a Letter to the Bishop of Landaff respecting ecclesiastical grievances. It contained some wit, and was ably answered by an anonymous writer.

In 1785, he had much business on his hands; for he produced "The Carmelite," allowed to be the best tragedy he has written; and also a comedy, called the "Natural Son*." In the course of the same year, he published a character of his diseased friend, Lord Viscount Sackville, and the first edition of the *Observer*. Next year a second edition appeared; and the subsequent

* Miss PLUMPTRE has lately presented to the public another "*Natural Son*," being a faithful and elegant translation of KOTZEBUE's famous play of that title, and which has been so much admired on the British stage, under the altered title of *Lovers' Vows*.

editions have now swelled the work to five volumes. These essays abound with pleasing and instructive information, and discover extensive reading.

In 1787, Mr. Cumberland presented the world with "An accurate descriptive Catalogue of the Paintings in the King of Spain's Palace at Madrid;" soon after this the comedy of the "Impostors," and a novel, in two volumes, called "Arundel," made their appearance. In the latter he is accused, but on very slight foundation, as seeming to palliate adultery and duelling.

After this, his talents seem to have lain fallow for some years, as he did not produce any thing until 1792, when he published his poem called "Calvary, or the Death of Christ." Next season he wrote the songs and chorusses in the comic opera of the "Armourer." In 1794, he produced the "Box-lobby Challenge," and also his deservedly-esteemed comedy of the "Jew," a play written with the laudable intention of removing the stigma which accompanies that unhappy and much-persecuted people. His attempt of the next year consisted of the "Wheel of Fortune;" he also presented the town with another comedy, called "First Love," and another novel, in four volumes, named "Henry."

His muse, which must be allowed to be a spirited one, seems to know no repose; for, in 1796, he produced "Days of Yore," a drama, in three acts; and the next year, "The Last of the

Family." His last piece is the comedy of "False Impressions."

When we consider the number, the merit, and the exquisiteness of his writings, Mr. Cumberland must be allowed to rank high as a dramatic writer.

SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD.

SIR Archibald Macdonald is the third son* of Macdonald of Slate, in the isles; his mother was of the house of Eglinton.

Mr. Macdonald was bred to the English bar, but had never any great practice. His business consisted chiefly in Scotch appeals. Yet if not highly successful in his professional career, he was at least deserving of success; and his good fortune having at length introduced him to the acquaintance of the daughter of a noble Marquis, who consented to their marriage, Mr. Macdonald, in consequence of this connexion, beheld the highest honours of the law lie open to his view.

By the interest of his wife's family, he was accordingly appointed, in 1780, a king's counsel and a Welch judge; he had been before brought into parliament, for Hindon; and at the general-election, which occurred during the year, he put on his silk gown; he was returned for Newcastle-

* He was a posthumous child.

under-line, a borough under the influence of his father-in-law the Marquis, then Lord Stafford.

In parliament, he, of course, followed the line of politics pursued by the family into which he was adopted: that is, he supported Lord North, until he began to totter; then, with the Gower interest, he went into Opposition, and was noticed for a severe attack he made on the Premier, with respect to the Dutch war. As a parliamentary speaker, Mr. Macdonald was easy, fluent, intelligible, and concise.

Lord Stafford, on joining Mr. Pitt, procured for his son-in-law the place of Solicitor general (1784), and in 1788, on the promotion of Sir Pepper Arden to be Master of the Rolls, he was knighted, and appointed Attorney-general in his room. It is no less remarkable than true, that the possession of these two high offices in the law did not bring Sir Archibald any considerable addition of practice as a counsel, and the number of his prosecutions were thought to have greatly affected the liberty of the press.

However, after a few years longer stay at the bar, he was promoted to be Chief Baron of the Exchequer, having previously been called to the degree of Sergeant at Law. As a judge he has conducted himself with candour and impartiality.

In consequence of his marriage with Lady Louisa Gower, he has several children.

P.

MRS.

MRS. SIDDONS.

WHEN a woman passes through that thorny path of pleasure the stage, without being drawn astray by the temptations which perpetually assail the fair traveller, our esteem and veneration ought ever to await her. In this age, degenerate as it is, we have enjoyed the pleasure of seeing many females supporting unfulfilled characters in theatrical life, and among them this lady certainly claims pre-eminence, from her splendid powers, joined to an unspotted fame.

Miss Kemble (for this was her maiden name,) was the eldest daughter of the manager of an itinerant company of comedians, and made her first essay as a singer, but soon abandoned that line, and attempted tragedy. Early in life she conceived a passion for Mr. Siddons, in which not being indulged by her parents, she quitted the stage, and hired herself as lady's maid in the family of Mrs. Greathead, of Guy's-cliff, near Warwick, where she remained about a year; and then resolving to unite herself with the man of her affections, she was married to Mr. Siddons, and soon after joined a strolling company, of no great reputation for talents.

Both she and her husband had, however, the good fortune to be at length engaged by Mr. Younger to perform at Liverpool, Birmingham, &c.; with
him

him she remained a few years, and acquired both profit and reputation ; the latter of which procured her an engagement at Drury-lane house, where she performed such parts as Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Epicene, in the Silent Woman ; and the Queen, in Richard the Third. She was, however, considered merely as a second-rate actress ; and being unfortunately placed in an after-piece, written by the editor of a newspaper, which had the ill luck to be damned, the scurrilous author left no opportunity of injuring her reputation ; she then quitted the London boards for a time, to return to them afterward with increased lustre.

At Bath, whither she now repaired, she was observed to improve rapidly, and is said to have been assisted by the lessons of Mr. Pratt, author of " Sympathy," &c. then a bookseller in that city. There she attracted the notice of the audience, and had the good fortune to be patronized by the Duchess of Devonshire, who procured her another engagement at Drury-lane. Before she quitted Bath, she spoke a farewell address, which she herself had written, and which she delivered with her usual excellence.

She made her second appearance at Drury-lane, on the 10th of October, 1782, in the character of " Isabella," and astonished the house with such a display of powers as they had seldom witnessed before. Her fame was soon spread abroad, and the theatre overflowed every night ; the taste for tragedy returned ; and the manager, whose farce of the " Critic" seems to have been expressly written

written to drive Melpomene from the stage, received "golden favours" from her votaries. Far from proving ungrateful, he generously gave Mrs. Siddons an extra-benefit, and increased her salary. Her good success was the means of introducing her sister, Miss F. Kemble, on the same stage; and she performed "Jane Shore," while her near relative played "Alicia," on her first appearance. The latter, however, not altogether fulfilling the expectations of the public, honourably withdrew, in consequence of a marriage with Mr. Twiss, a literary gentleman, and a well-known traveller.

Mrs. Siddons's *extra*-benefit was given her before Christmas; she then appeared in "Belvidera," and gained fresh laurels, and an enormous receipt. The two counsellors, Pigot and Fielding were so highly delighted on this occasion, that they collected a subscription among the gentlemen of the bar, of one hundred guineas, and presented them to her, accompanied with a polite letter, as a token of their esteem. This was an honour which, we believe, has not been conferred on any actor or actresses since the time when Booth gave such general satisfaction in the character of Cato.

In the summer, this great and amiable actress went to Dublin, the inhabitants of which were equally astonished at her powers. On her return for the winter (1783-4), she performed, for the first time, "by command of their Majesties." During the succeeding season, she took a second trip to Ireland, and also visited Edinburgh, in both
of

of which places, she not only received great salaries, but very considerable presents from unknown hands, particularly a silver urn which was sent after her to London, on which were engraved these words, "*A reward to merit.*"

Envy and malice, as usual, pursued merit; and to these alone we can attribute the attack made on her in a newspaper, respecting her treatment of an unhappy sister, &c. These reports had, however, such an effect on the town, that on her first appearance on the stage, in 1784, she was saluted with the cry of "*off! off!*" Her friends at length obtained her a hearing; and her husband and brother, by means of uncommon exertions, succeeded in refuting the calumnies to which she had been exposed. She was accordingly restored to public favour. Although she had conducted herself during this contest with great composure, yet it made such an impression on her mind, that she determined to retire to Wales with the few thousands she had then saved; but the persuasions of her friends, and a consideration for the welfare of her family, made her alter this resolution.

Their Majesties about this time paid her much attention. Her talent in reciting dramatic works had been highly spoken of, which reaching the ears of the royal family, she was frequently invited to Buckingham-house, and Windsor, where she and her brother often read plays, *and it is to be hoped received ample remuneration for their trouble.*

As some relaxation, on account of her health, had

had now become necessary, she quitted Drury-lane for a time, and performed at Weymouth, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. with additional reputation. She also visited several of her noble patrons, among whom Lord and Lady Harcourt stood conspicuous. By means of these friends and accomplishments she has acquired a very good fortune, had formerly a considerable share, now converted into a mortgage, on Drury-lane theatre, and is blessed with a family that promises to be her comfort in old age.

We lament exceedingly the recent death of her beautiful and accomplished daughter; and most sincerely condole with a mother, whose exquisite sensibility must have been agonized by so unhappy an event.

Nature has bestowed on Mrs. Siddons a majestic person, a striking countenance, and a fine voice; the judgment with which she modulates the last of these, has never been excelled, perhaps never rivalled, by any other actress. The flexibility of her features, the expression of her eyes, and the grace of her deportment, have seldom been equalled. She possesses that art of speaking, for which the late Mrs. Yates was so justly famed, combined with the impassioned style of playing, of Mrs. Crauford, while in her meridian.

She has lately had an engagement with the Drury-lane managers, at a certain sum for each night's performance, by which means she avoids injuring her health by the constant repetition of theatrical exertions.

Mrs.

Mrs. Siddons resides in Great Marlborough-street, and is upwards of fifty years of age. In private life she is regarded as an œconomist, but, at the same time, as a truly amiable and exemplary wife and mother.

P.

SIR JOHN SCOTT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

IT has been remarked, of late years, that in consequence of the mode now in vogue, of bestowing the favours of government, the bar is the only line in which a man can rise by merit alone to the first honours of his profession; but we believe even here some grains of allowance must be made; for the subject of our present enquiries would never have reached the station he now occupies, without powerful patronage.

Sir John Scott is the son of a tradesman* of no great opulence, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His elder brother, Sir William Scott, who was bred to the practice of the civil law, was formerly advocate-general, and is now judge of the Admiralty-court. John was admitted a student of the Middle Temple, in Hilary term, 1772, and after paying the most assiduous attention to his studies, was called to the bar at the usual period.

Our young barrister is said to have been troubled with what few gentlemen of the profession have

* His father was, what is there termed, a coal-fitter.

occasion to complain of—a certain timidity of character, which made him shun the courts as a pleader for a considerable time, and employ himself chiefly in the business of a draughtsman in chancery, in which he was allowed to be able, and had great practice. He found, however, that this branch of the profession was equally injurious to his health and advancement in life, and he at length determined to get the better of that species of torpor to which he was naturally inclined.

He accordingly betook himself to a more public and active line; and in a short time evinced that he was apt and ingenious at reply.

Sir John was not long at the bar, before he attracted the notice of the late chancellor*; and as he always avoided opposition to the bench, received great countenance in his practice: it is even said that the chancellor one day took him aside, after the business of the court was over, complimented him on his merit, and offered him the place of one of the masters in chancery, then vacant. This he politely declined; and he had the satisfaction to find that he acted right, as his business continued to increase rapidly.

About the year 1783, he obtained a patent of precedence, which entitled him to all the honours of a king's counsel, and freed him from certain disadvantages attendant on that station. He had just before been introduced into parliament, through

* Lord Thurlow.

the interest of Lord Weymouth, who seated him for the borough of Weobly. Mr. Scott was said to have struck a bargain with his right honourable patron, when he accepted this situation, which, if true, was much to his honour: viz. "that he would be at liberty to vote as he pleased." He might, however, have spared himself this trouble, for as soon as he got into the house, he acted decidedly with the Pitt party, and in the debate on Mr. Fox's India bill, placed himself in opposition to the late Mr. Lee, then attorney-general. Although in this attempt he did not acquire much importance as a parliamentary speaker, yet he gained every thing he could wish for, by his connexion with those whose cause he espoused; for they took the first opportunity to promote him. Accordingly, in 1788, he was advanced to be Solicitor-general, in the room of Sir Archibald, then Mr. Macdonald, promoted to be attorney-general. When these two were presented to the king, the attorney-general received the honour of knighthood. The officer in waiting was then ordered to bring up Mr. Scott, when the latter begged leave to decline; but the king, *who knows the real value* of these things better than any other man, perhaps, in his dominions, replied, "Pho, pho, nonsense! I will serve them both alike." Thus Mr. Scott gained honours unasked, and even against his will.

In the business of the regency, Sir John was said to be the man whose legal talents formed the basis of the minister's plan of conduct.

In 1793 he was made Attorney-general; and while in this post, he has prosecuted, perhaps, more men for libels, than ever fell to the lot of any two of his predecessors! It is during his time, too, that *secret imprisonment* has crept into practice.

The part he took during the state trials at the Old Bailey will never be forgotten; for, after a wonderful display of candour, he laboured through a speech of nine hours to convict a man of a crime, while the length of his own oration alone was a strong presumptive proof of innocence.

He now stands as the most likely candidate for the seals; and should any thing happen to remove the present Chancellor, during Mr. Pitt's continuance in power, he will, in all probability, succeed him.

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

CHARLES HOWARD, Esq. of Graystock, in Cumberland, a collateral branch of that noble family, succeeded to the title of Norfolk, in 1777, on the death of Edward, the ninth duke; and his son, the present Duke, then assumed the appellation of Earl of Surrey.

In 1767, while Mr. Howard, he married a Miss Mary-Ann Coppinger, of Ballyvolane, in Ireland, who died soon after, in childbed; and, in 1771, he received the hand of Miss Frances Scudamore, daughter of C.F. Scudamore, Esq. of Home-Lacey,
in

in Herefordshire, by the repudiated Duchess of Beauford, with whom he got a large fortune; but by neither lady has he any children. This last, indeed, has been in a very melancholy state of mind for many years, and lives retired at one of his Grace's seats. The Duchess is celebrated for the smart repulse she is said to have given the amorous Duke of Queensbury a few years since.

Some time previously to his acquisition of the title, Lord Surrey had renounced the Romish church, in which he had been bred, and of course became eligible to sit in either house of parliament. Accordingly, at the general election in 1780, he was returned for Carlisle, in opposition to the interest of Sir James Lowther. As soon as his lordship took his seat, he joined the party in opposition, and with it laboured to stem the torrent arising from the encreasing influence of the crown, until the complete defeat of the minister, in 1782. It is well known that the North administration having clung fast to their places, Lord Surrey gave notice in the House of Commons of a motion which would effectually remove them; but the premier anticipated the disgrace, by declaring "that he was no longer minister."

In the change which soon after took place, his lordship was appointed Lord-lieutenant of the west riding of the county of York, and under the coalition ministry he was nominated a lord of the treasury.*

* His father possessed the office of hereditary earl marshal of England, and Lord Surrey executed it for him as deputy.

When the Shelburne ministry came in, Lord Surrey opposed them, and joined the coalition; and when that party was driven from power, he still espoused their cause.

He now became a member of the society for constitutional information, took an active part in the business of parliamentary reform, and attended public meetings when that question was brought forward; on this account he has been charged with inconsistency, as he is known to be as deeply concerned in the *traffic in boroughs* as any nobleman of this age; but he has always solemnly assured his friends, that he is ready to sacrifice every species of influence of that kind, and support a meliorated system, which he holds to be essentially necessary for the preservation of the constitution.

On the death of his father he succeeded to his title and seat in the House of Lords, and there, as before, has uniformly supported the popular cause*.

His friendship for Mr. Fox has ever been steady and invariable, and to this alone may be attributed his recent dismissal. At a late annual meeting, to commemorate the return of his friend for the city of Westminster, the Duke is said to have given the old Whig toast of "Our Sovereign, the Majesty of the People." In the memory of some of the youngest men now living, this has been repeatedly

* He is, we believe, the first earl-marshal who has executed the office in person, all the family before him being Catholics:

drank without offence ; and why any exception should at present be taken to it, remains to be explained. The fact, however, is, that the Duke of Norfolk was dismissed from his lord-lieutenancy, and from the command of a regiment which he had trained with the utmost care, while he had also generously resigned the emoluments derived from it, to increase the comforts of his favourite *corps*.

Report has whispered that his grace was greatly affected by these marks of royal displeasure ; but he surely could not be hurt by the loss of nominal influence or distinction, although, it may readily be supposed, that to be torn from a set of men with whom he had lived in the habits of friendship for many years, would, undoubtedly, give him pain. But, if any thing could tend to produce additional chagrin, it must be to see a man with whom he had been in the habits of acting with cordiality for so many years, pluming himself in his spoils, and stooping to a minister whose conduct he had reprobated.

The duke, as a *bon vivant*, is surrounded by those who are capable of keeping “ the table in a roar,” and his hospitalities at Home-Lacey are in the first style of magnificence.

As an orator, he possesses an easy delivery, and evinces a masculine understanding ; but he never attempts any of those rhetorical flourishes which captivate the ear, without laying hold of the understanding,

His grace has been known to perform many generous actions. He kept the place of Secretary

to the earl marshal vacant for a considerable time after the death of poor Brooks, who lost his life in the fatal accident at the Haymarket theatre, until, as he said, he could find some one worthy to fill it, although earnestly solicited by many for the appointment. Mr. Dallaway having published his ingenious book on the science of heraldry, the Duke directly bestowed the office on him, unasked.

His father had about him when he died a great number of persons of the catholic persuasion, who, on the loss of their patron, concluded they would be dismissed by his protestant successor; but he generously directed that their stipends and allowances should be paid them, as in the lifetime of the late Duke.

JOSEPH TOWERS, LL.D.

THIS gentleman has distinguished himself in the annals of patriotism, in the republic of letters, and in the pulpit of the dissenters: he was not, however, intended for a divine; Dr. Towers, like his great precursor and friend, Dr. Franklin, having been originally bred a printer.

At a very early period of his life, from a sincere conviction, obtained by *reading*—that great bane of all tyranny, civil and ecclesiastical!—he became firmly attached to the principles of liberty, both in respect to church and state; and no man has been more
zealous

zealous in behalf of the freedom of his country, and of mankind. This favourite idea has, indeed, been always warmly cherished by the sectaries in general, and they must be allowed to have fanned the sacred flame, and kept it alive in the nation, during the most alarming and critical periods.

After his call to the ministry, Dr. T. was chosen pastor of the congregation of protestant dissenters at Highgate; this occurred in 1774; and in 1778 he was nominated morning-preacher to the dissenters at Newington-green. In the latter of these offices he succeeded the worthy, pious, and amiable Dr. Price, who had been appointed to the congregation at Hackney. He continued, however, to officiate at Newington-green, in the afternoon, for some years; and his colleague and himself seemed perfectly agreed relative to all the leading points in politics and religion.

On the 4th of November, 1788, being the completion of a century from the revolution, that event was celebrated with great solemnity; and the doctor, at the request of a committee, delivered what may be termed a *civic sermon* on the occasion, which was listened to with great attention, and printed afterwards at the request of the stewards.

While the Society for Constitutional Information flourished, the name of Dr. Joseph Towers stood conspicuous among the most active of its members. He had been ballotted for in 1782, and continued to act with it until 1794, when the books and papers were seized by order of government, and the secretary taken into custody. On the 13th of June,

of the same year, the doctor received an order to attend the Privy Council on the day following, which he accordingly obeyed; and was examined relative to the proceedings of a club which boasted of the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond, the Earls of Effingham and Derby, Sir William Jones, Mr. Sheridan, Drs. Price, Kippis and John Jebb, Mr. Erskine, &c. &c. among its associates. On this occasion, Dr. T. although visibly depressed by the yellow-jaundice, evinced great firmness, and was dismissed without being obliged to give bail, at the desire of a dignified clergyman then sitting as a member of the board, and who is supposed to have been the present Archbishop of Canterbury.

On the establishment of the society called "The Friends of the People," he was also voted a member *.

The

* The society was founded in the year 1792, under the name of "The Society of the Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform."

This institution is supposed to have excited considerable alarm in the administration; for, in the advertisement notifying its existence, a list was published of the first hundred associators among which were no less than forty members of parliament, viz. the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr. Grey, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Francis, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Sheridan, &c. &c.

This society published a very accurate account of the state of the representation of England and Wales, the substance of which was afterwards formed into a petition, and presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Grey, on the 6th of May, 1793. In this petition it was asserted, with what truth we pretend not to determine, that eighty-four individuals did, by their own immediate authority, send one hundred and fifty-seven members to parliament;

and

The life of this gentleman presents few other memorable events, his literary labours excepted, which evince a series of study and toil, seldom to be met with, even in those who have dedicated their whole time to letters alone.

His principal works are the following :

1. In 1763, A Review of the genuine Doctrines of Christianity, &c. 8vo. with the name annexed.
2. In 1764, an anonymous "Enquiry into the Question, Whether Juries are, or are not, Judges of Law as well as of Fact; with a particular Reference to the Case of Libels." In this, Dr. Towers took the constitutional and affirmative side of the question, not only in respect to libels, *but in all cases whatever*; this doctrine was ably supported by the late Lord Camden so far as concerns the former, and has also received the sanction of the legislature in a bill, but too little attended to by either judges or juries.
3. He is the author of the first seven volumes of "British Biography;" the first volume of which was published in 1766.
4. Between fifty and sixty articles in the new edition of the Biogr. Britan. with the letter T. annexed.
5. In 1773, An Examination into Sir J. Dalrymple's scandalous Attack on the Memory of Sydney and Russell.
6. In 1774, A Letter to Dr. Johnson, occasioned by his recent political Publications. See Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. II. p. 201 and 202.
7. A Letter to the Earl of Shelburn, 1782.

and that, besides these, one hundred and fifty more, making in the whole three hundred and seven, were returned to that house, not by the collective voice of those whom they appeared to represent, but by the recommendation of seventy powerful individuals: so that the total number of patrons was one hundred and fifty-four, who returned a decided majority. These statements the society observed in their petition, which was entered on the journals, they were ready to prove at the bar.

8. Observations on the Rights and Duties of Juries in Trials or Libels, &c. 1784.

9. Dialogues concerning the Ladies, 1785.

10. In 1786, An Essay on the Life and Writings of Dr. Johnson.

11. In 1788, Memoirs of the Life and Reign of Frederick III. King of Prussia. (A second edition has been since published.)

12. Thoughts on the Commencement of a new Parliament, 1790.

13. A Dialogue, &c. respecting the Commencement of the War with France, 1793.

14. Address to the Electors of Great Britain, 1796.

15. Thoughts on natural Insanity, 1797.

16. Remarks on the Conduct, &c. of the Association at the Crown and Anchor, &c.

17. A Translation, from the French, of two Discourses delivered before the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, by the Baron de Hertzberg.

18. A Translation, from the same Language, of an historical Memoir of the last Year of the Life of Frederick II. King of Prussia.

19. Observations on Mr. Hume's History of England.

And, 20. An Oration delivered at the London Tavern, on the 4th of November, 1788, on Occasion of the Commemoration of the Revolution, and the Completion of a Century from that great Event :—

After remarking that, great and interesting events, involving the happiness of nations, have always been celebrated by mankind, he recurs to the important epoch, which placed William III. on the throne of the Stewarts :

“ Of this nature, and of this tendency,” says he, “ is the event, which we are this day assembled to commemorate. It is an event, which must ever be regarded as one of the most important recorded in the British annals. It is an event, which, at the period when it happened, justly excited the attention of surround-
ing

ing nations. It is an event, which will ever reflect honour upon our ancestors, and the remembrance of which should, at all times, excite in their descendants an ardent zeal for the liberties of their country, and for the rights of human nature.

“ That when all the efforts of regal tyranny were employed to overturn the liberties of England, they should have been still more fully established at the REVOLUTION; that, in consequence of that most important event, this country should now have enjoyed an high degree of liberty, civil and religious, for an entire CENTURY,—is a just subject of national exultation, and of gratitude to the supreme Ruler of the Universe, from whose providential dispensations Great Britain has derived such signal and such invaluable blessings.

“ It is among the highest honours of this country, that its inhabitants have been distinguished, in almost every period of their history, by their firm, manly, and intrepid opposition to the encroachments of tyranny. On a variety of occasions have our ancestors nobly asserted their rights as men, and as citizens. In the senate, and in the field, they have repelled the attacks of tyrants, and maintained the honour, the dignity, and the liberties, of their country. Many efforts have been made by the possessors of power to overturn these liberties; and, at the period previous to the Revolution, such was the despotism of the measures adopted by the then reigning prince, that, if they had been tamely submitted to by the people, the liberties of England would have had no longer an existence.”

It is thus that he mentions the wrongs that led to, and the patriots who distinguished themselves during that and a former period.

“ To enter into a particular enumeration of the facts that preceded, and that attended the Revolution, would take up more time than would be suitable to the nature of such a meeting as the present. I shall, therefore, here only observe, that when the illegal, the unconstitutional, and the tyrannical administration of king James the Second, had rendered it necessary that all who
had

had any attachment to the liberties of their country, or to the Protestant religion, should make a firm and united stand against him; when he assumed a power of suspending the laws, and of trampling on the constitution;—an illustrious band of patriots rose, who projected the REVOLUTION, and who adopted those measures that at length brought it to a glorious completion. Among the principal Promoters of the Revolution, we may particularly enumerate the Earls of Devonshire, Shrewsbury, and Danby, Lord Delamer (1), Lord Lumley, Admiral Herbert, Admiral Russel, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, and Henry Sydney, brother to the illustrious Algernon.

“Of characters of this kind our country has happily produced too many to be now distinctly enumerated: but it cannot be improper on this occasion to mention the names of JOHN HAMPDEN, who opposed the unjust claims of regal tyranny in the famous case of Ship-money, and who nobly fell in the cause of his country in Chalgrove-field; of the virtuous, the amiable, the patriotic Lord RUSSEL; of the high-spirited and illustrious ALGERNON SYDNEY, whose admirable writings in the cause of freedom brought him to the scaffold; and of JOHN LOCKE, who has explained the true nature of civil government, and established the rights of men on the most unquestionable principles. And among the distinguished votaries of liberty in this country, our great and illustrious bard, the sublime MILTON, should not be forgotten. Even the splendour of his genius has not secured him from the

(1) Henry Booth, Lord Delamer, afterwards created Earl of Warrington, was a nobleman of amiable and irreproachable character, who is said to have been one of the original projectors of the Revolution, and who was one of the first that appeared in arms in its support, after the landing of the prince of Orange. But he was not perfectly satisfied with the manner in which some points were adjusted at the Revolution. He appears to have wished for more retrenchments of the regal prerogative, and to have thought, that the liberty of the subject was not sufficiently secured and ascertained even under the new settlement. Mr. Granger says of him, in his Biographical History of England, that “he was a man of a generous and noble nature, which disdained, upon any terms, to submit to servitude; and whose passions seemed to centre in the love of civil and religious liberty.” In Lord Delamer’s “Advice to his Children,” printed in his works, he says, “There never yet was any good man, who had not an ardent zeal for his country.”

most

most virulent attacks from the partizans and advocates of despotic power; and his zeal in support of the great rights of mankind, should, therefore, the more endear his memory to those who are actuated by the same generous principles. He is justly entitled to our veneration for the ardour of his patriotism, as well as for that elevation of genius, which enabled him to reflect so much honour on his country by his immortal writings."

The various publications of Dr. Towers, the boldness of his principles, his unabated zeal, and the side he had taken during the American contest, have all tended to render him conspicuous.

The Doctor was admitted, in 1779, to the academical honours of the university of Edinburgh, having received the degree of LL.D.

Several of his tracts, &c. have been lately re-published in three vols. 8vo. with an admirable portrait of the author prefixed, an outline sketch of which is given in our frontispiece.

He has a son, who is librarian of Dr. Williams' institution, in Red-cross-street, and author of "*Illustrations of Prophecy*," in 2 vol. 8vo. a work of considerable merit.

LORD THURLOW.

OF all the *learned professions*, as they are usually called, that of the law is the most propitious, in this country at least, to such as possess talents, but are destitute of fortune. It affords a greater variety of opportunities for a young man to bring both his
natural

natural and acquired parts into a conspicuous point of view, and consequently to turn them to an advantageous account, than any other; and where sterling abilities are united with industry and application, the chance of success is highly flattering. In support of this assertion, one might refer with great confidence to the catalogue of eminent persons, who have filled the first legal departments of this kingdom for centuries past: the court calendar, and the peerage of the present day, will furnish proofs still more decisive.

Edward, Lord Thurlow, was born, A.D. 1735, at Ashfield, an obscure village in the country of Suffolk, of which his father, the * reverend Thomas Thurlow (who died in 1762), was vicar, and whence he himself derives his barony. The family, like most others who bear the same name with a great man of former times, is said to be descended from the celebrated Thurloe, the secretary of Oliver Cromwell; but if so, the heralds have omitted the circumstance, for it is not mentioned in the peerage †. The

* He married Elizabeth Smith, of Ashfield, by whom he had issue,

1. The present Lord.
2. Thomas, who died Bishop of Durham, May 27, 1791, aged 56; and,
3. John, a manufacturer and alderman at Norwich, who died March 4, 1782.

† A story formerly circulated, if true, does great honour to his lordship, as it evinces a total abnegation of that silly vanity which sometimes accompanies even great characters:—

On

The subject of the present sketch, after receiving a tolerable education from his father, who is said, perhaps unjustly, to have attended to the learning *only* of his children, he was removed to Cambridge, and entered of Caius college, under the tuition of Dr. Smith, the present master. While there, his conduct was so irregular, and his spirit so haughty, as often to provoke academic censure. The frequency with which this was administered, had no other effect upon a mind naturally untractable, than to produce occasions for stricter discipline. At length it was hinted to him pretty plainly, that a voluntary departure from Cambridge would be a prudent step on his part, to prevent the highest punishment that an university can inflict. He accordingly quitted his college without taking any degree, and repaired to the metropolis, where, after spending some considerable time, and exhausting his finances, in a manner, we may suppose, not very different from that which had distinguished him elsewhere, he engaged, at the entreaty of his friends, in the study of the law, and accordingly entered himself of the Inner Temple. How he conducted himself in this new situation is little known; but those who remember him say, that there was nothing either in his

On being asked by a flatterer, while Lord High Chancellor, "if he was not descended from the great secretary Thurloe?" he is said to have replied as follows: "There were two of that name in my country, Sir; the one Thurloe the statesman, the other Thurlow the carrier—I am descended from the latter."

appli-

application or his conversation, that warranted any expectation of his subsequent celebrity. Even long after his being called to the bar, he continued unknown and unnoticed, and consequently unemployed. At length a fortunate circumstance occurred, which gave him an opportunity of shewing to the world that he was possessed of powers of the first order. By some means or other, with which we are not acquainted, he was employed to arrange and state the case of Mr. Archibald Douglas, now Lord Douglas, in the great legal contest with the Duke of Hamilton; and this task, which was a very complex and important one, he executed in a most masterly manner*.

About this time he also acquired the favour and patronage of Lord Weymouth; who brought him into parliament; and from that moment the path to honours and emoluments lay smooth before him; for not long after he was made one of the king's counsel, then (in 1770) appointed Solicitor-general, and in a few months more he succeeded Sir William de Grey, as Attorney-general. It is very remarkable, however, that the university of Cambridge never named him, according to usual custom, one of its standing counsel. Whether this neglect proceeded from a recollection of his former conduct, or from his having left college

* He had signalized himself before this, in a cause, in which the late earl of Winchelsea and Mr. Luke Robinson were concerned; and it is not at all unlikely, that it led to his being retained in the great Scotch contest, above-mentioned.

without taking a degree, is uncertain. But though unmindful of him, it redounds to his honour, that on his advancement to the Chancellorship he remembered his old tutor, as well as his college associates, and conferred favours upon them which they never could have expected, more especially from one who had met with a treatment bordering on severity at their hands. Many anecdotes of his generosity might be related; but one shall suffice.

While at college, he was often too licentious with his tongue, and entering once into a dispute with an elective and temporary officer, he was asked "whether he knew that he was talking to the *dean*?"—"Yes, Mr. *Dean*," replied Mr. Thurlow; and never afterwards saw him without reiterating "*Mr. Dean! Mr. Dean!*" which set them at variance. When he became Attorney-general, they met by accident; and he addressed his old friend, *unwittingly*, with "How do you do, Mr. *Dean*?" which so hurt the *cantab*, that he left the room without making him any reply. On his obtaining the office of Lord Chancellor, he took an opportunity of meeting once more with his quondam acquaintance, and again addressed him with "How do you do, Mr. *Dean*?" "My Lord," replied the other, fullenly, "I am not now a dean, and therefore do not deserve the title." "But you are a dean," said his lordship; "and to satisfy you that it is so, read this paper, by which you will find that you are Dean of——: and I am so convinced that you will do honour to the appointment, that

“ that I am sorry any part of my conduct should
“ have given offence to so good a man.”

He was twice elected member of parliament (if his *nomination* may be so termed) for the borough of Tamworth, in Staffordshire ; and during the time he sat in the House of Commons he was greatly respected by both sides for the candour, and talents, which he uniformly displayed. There he became a firm and undaunted supporter of the measures of the existing administration, and certainly no man was ever called upon to defend a more unpopular one. Lord North found his eloquence, promptitude, and resolution, of such vast service to him against his numerous and powerful adversaries, that in return he gave him the great seal, in June, 1778 ; at which time he was created a peer.

On entering upon this high office he shewed a firmness, and an integrity, rarely equalled. It had been usual with former chancellors to make considerable alterations, on their advancement, in the officers of their court, with a view to serve their dependants, or oblige their ministerial friends : and, in particular, the commissioners of bankrupts were commonly changed. On the present occasion, however, hardly any changes were made ; and only one person was dismissed, which he owed to his own imprudence, in soliciting the influence of his lordship's mistress.

The situation of the chancellor in the House of Lords, as speaker, is not only of great importance,
but

but of peculiar delicacy, and requires much address. The hereditary members of the constitution are generally fraught with lofty sentiments, and feel but little inclination to bend to the authority of a man raised from among the herd of practitioners in the inferior courts. Although the powers vested in the speaker be very great, yet they had seldom been exercised over a debate in restraining the exuberances of the noble orators ; the consequence of which was, that they frequently wandered wide of the question, besides committing other irregularities inconsistent with the dignity of so august an assembly. Lord Thurlow determined to exert himself in reforming these abuses, and shewing that a chancellor ought to be looked up to with deference, instead of sitting, as had been too often the case, a mere cypher. His interference in the debate, to preserve order, and to confine the members immediately to the point, excited no small surprize and dissatisfaction ; at last the Duke of Grafton, feeling himself hurt at a check which he had experienced, remonstrated against it with great sharpness. For this he received a correction on the instant, in terms that were pointedly severe, yet spiritedly decorous ; and from that moment Lord T.'s character and authority rose to the proper level in that house.

During the remainder of the North administration, he continued an uniform and able defender of the measures of government. Indeed, a stronger proof of the universal esteem in which he was held by all parties could not be adduced, than in his

retaining the seals at the express request of the new ministry. He never, however, cordially united with Lord Shelburne, when that nobleman was at the head of affairs, though he held the chancellorship during his short-lived administration.

On the entrance of the coalition junto into power, his Lordship resigned his station with becoming dignity: the seals were put in commission: but he resumed them again when that strange monster was driven out by the united voice of the people.

Few men, while occupying that high post, have gained such a degree of popularity as Lord Thurlow; and it ought to be observed, that the times in which he has lived have been extremely critical, and that he has had to encounter many events of a very difficult and arduous nature.

The most remarkable period in his life, and that upon which his future biographer will have to dwell with the greatest complacency, is the epoch of the king's illness. No situation could be more trying; and certainly no man ever conducted himself in a trying situation with greater fortitude or wisdom. His integrity on that occasion was, indeed, conspicuous; and he had the rare satisfaction of receiving for his reward, the grateful acknowledgements of both prince and people at the same time. His speeches on the Regency question, will ever remain upon record as the most precious memorials of unshaken rectitude; and that declaration which, in a manner, may be said
to

to have electrified the House of Peers, "When I forsake my king in the "hour of his distress, may my God forsake me!" ought to be engraven upon his monument.

After having acted with Mr. Pitt, ever since that gentleman came into office, till the present eventful war, a marked difference of opinion in the cabinet at length rendered the resignation of one or other of these statesmen unavoidable. Accordingly Lord Thurlow delivered up the great seal, in a manner, and in terms that affected his royal patron very forcibly. Doubtless his Majesty could not but recollect, at that moment, the services which the ex-chancellor had rendered him in the awful season when he was, as it were, shut out from society, and oppressed with the most severe of human maladies!

From that time, Lord T. has contented himself with enjoying the *otium cum dignitate*, in his retirement at Dulwich. But though he has withdrawn himself from the present ministry, he has not petulantly joined the phalanx of opposition. His mind is superior to party connexion, which, at the best, is but a mean kind of bondage. While in office, he preserved an independent spirit, and was always ready to express his dissatisfaction at the measures of his colleagues in power; and now that he has no share in the government, he is equally free in reproving or commending either ministers or their opponents.

His great characteristics are steadiness, uniformity,

mity, and inflexibility, which often proceed to a length that, in others, would be termed obstinacy. No man can shake him from his purpose, when his opinion is once fixed. With this spirit of determination, is, however, united a powerful principle of integrity. In all the situations which he has filled, he has conducted himself in such a manner that no enemy can find an occasion to fasten any suspicion upon him. Though a stranger to gentleness of voice or manner, he possesses a large and very liberal mind. In the disposal of preferments, his chief regard ever was to merit ; and he has been often known to resist the influence of his ministerial associates, in order to bring in those whom he supposed to be better qualified for the vacant offices.

As a public speaker, he possesses great powers ; and though devoid of the more winning graces which steal their way to the heart, he carries home conviction to it, by a select arrangement of words, a dignity of utterance, a close and logical mode of argument, and a singular expressiveness of countenance.

With such qualifications, and such virtues, not to possess some failings would be more than falls to the lot of humanity. Those of his lordship arise entirely from a defect in his early education, and from the peculiar cast of his mind. Juvenile habits and indiscretions are rarely so altered in more advanced life, as not to leave some tincture of

of their influence, unless in very flexible dispositions alone.

Lord Thurlow's character is replete with integrity and liberality ; and therefore a few imperfections may the more reasonably be excused*. Coarse lan-

* One of the most learned men of the present day, perhaps, dipped his pen in the gall of party prejudice, when he drew the following character of his lordship under the name of *Novius* :

“ *Minas possumus contemnere vocemque fulmineam Thraſonici istius Oratoris τῆ τὰς ἑρπύς κωνείας ἐννεκρότος, cujus vulticulum, uti Noviorum istius minoris, ferre posse se negat Quadruplatorum genus omne et Subſcriptorum. Quid enim ? truculentus semper incedit, tetérque, et terribilis aspectu. De supercilio autem isto quid dicendum est ? annon reipublicæ illud quasi pignus quoddam videtur ? annon senatus illo, tanquam Atlante cælum, innititur.*

“ Ferunt profectò *Novium* in ‘ *summā feritate esse versutissimum, promptumque ingenio ultra Barbarum.*’ Quod si demſeris illi aut σφοδρότητα quanta in *Bruto* fuit, aut πικρότητα verè *Menippeam*, aut προσωπεύου σκυρότητα propriam et suam, facile eidem juris nodos legumque ænigmata ad solvendum permiseris.

“ *Fervido quodam et petulanti genere dicendi utitur, eodémque, nec valdè nitenti, nec planè horrido. Solutos irradientium cæchinnos ita commovet, ut lepores ejus, scurriles et prorsus veteratorios diceret. Omnia loquitur verborum sanè bonorum cursu quodam incitato, itémque voce, qua ne subsellia quidem ipsa desiderant pleniorē et grandiorē. In adversariis autem lacerandis ita causidicorum figuras jaculatur, ita callida et malitiosa juris interpretatione utitur, ita furere et bacchari solet, ut sæpè mirere tam alias res agere optimates, ut sit penè infano inter disertos locus.*

“ Fuit ei, periade atque aliis, fortuna pro virtutibus. Didicit autem à *Muciano*, satis clarum esse apud timentem, quisquis timeatur. Corpore ipse ingens, animi immòditus, verbis magnificus,

language, at times, is said to escape him; and some facetious barristers have pretended to observe an oath *quivering* on his lips, while sitting at Lincoln's Inn; but the unmannerly stranger has never been allowed to escape, though his unwilling retention was, doubtless, a painful emotion.

His lordship was never married, but he has several natural children.

Although he rents a house, and maintains a regular establishment, in St. James's-square, yet he never sleeps in town; but retires instantly from the House of Peers to his residence, near Dulwich, in Surrey.

Lord Thurlow has secured for his nephew, the patent place of clerk of the Hanaper, vacant by the death of the late Lord Northington.

nificus, et specie ianum magis quàm sapientia validus, studia ad se Optimatum illexit, eamque adeptus est auctoritatem, quæ homini novo pro facundia esse posset. Scilicet, quæ bonis Titio, Seioque turpissima forent, Novium nostrum maxime decent, siquidem è subsellis elapsus de Tribunali nunci pronuntiet, et ex Præcone aionum factus sit institor eloquentiæ senatoriæ. Quam igitur in civitate gratiam dicendi facultate Q. Varius consecutus est, vastus homo atque fœdus, eandem Novius intelligit, illa ipsa facultate, quamcunque habet, se esse in Senatu consecutum—

———“Ellum, *confidens, catus* :

Cùm faciem videas, videtur esse quantivis preti :

Tristis severitas inest in vultu, atque in verbis fides.”

“Of that orator, who carries menace and terror in his brow, we think the eloquence Thraſonic, and despise its loudest thunders; whose aspect, like the younger Novius, repels all underlings and petitioners,” &c.

THE MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

THE subject of this memoir has acted with success in the character of a statesman as well as a foldier. Like the Roman consuls of old, he has received and dispatched ambassadors; he has declared war; and granted peace. He fought for the preservation of an empire in America; he retained and enlarged the British dominions in Asia; and in Europe, he has humbled the enemies of his country, and, by his energy and humane policy, has crushed a civil war in the bud.

Marquis Cornwallis, whose family is very ancient and honourable, was born December 31st, 1738, and seems to have been intended, from his cradle, for the army. He accordingly entered into the service at a very early age; and we find him in 1758, when only twenty years old, and at a period when promotions were less rapid than at present, a Captain in Colonel Craufurd's light infantry, under the title of *Lord Broome*. Three years after this, he accompanied the Marquis of Granby to the continent, in the honourable and confidential capacity of one of his *Aids-de-camp*, and was of course attendant on the person of that gallant nobleman during the campaign. It was thus, in the fields of Germany, and under the most skilful and celebrated generals of the day, that Lord Broome acquired the rudiments of the art of war, and prepared himself to command, by first learning to obey.

In

In 1761, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel of the twelfth regiment of foot ; and we then find him discharging his civil as well as military duties, by sitting as a representative in parliament for the Borough of Eye.

On the death of his father, who was the fifth peer of his family, in 1762, he of course vacated his seat in the House of Commons, and appeared in the House of Peers, under the title of Earl Cornwallis. In 1765, he was nominated one of the lords of the bedchamber ; and about the same time, was honoured with the appointment of *Aid-de-camp* to his present Majesty, which was tantamount to a promotion in the army.

His spirit, however, was manly and independent. The favours of the crown did not make him forget the duties of the peerage ; for he voted frequently against the minister, and sometimes adopted what is called the *popular side* of the question ; in particular, when the memorable bill for securing the legislative power of Great Britain over the American colonies was introduced into the upper house, Lord Cornwallis was one of the five who refused their consent. This feeble, but respectable opposition, was headed by the venerable Earl Camden*. He also, on another remarkable occasion, entered his protest against the question to vote away privilege in matters of libel.

* Lord Mansfield rallied his Lordship on this occasion, on account of the youth of his associates. " Poor Camden !" said the Chief Justice, " Could you only get four boys to support you ! "

Luckily

Luckily for the nation, his political did not interfere with his military career; for, in 1766, he was promoted to the command of the thirty-third regiment of foot, which he still holds; and two years afterwards, married Miss Jemima Tulikens Jones, daughter of James Jones, Esq. whose singular succession to a large fortune is related at large in the memoirs of the facetious Tate Wilkinson. With this lady, who brought him two children (a son and a daughter), he enjoyed every felicity the connubial state is capable of yielding, until he was called on to embark with his regiment for America. On this occasion, Lady Cornwallis, inconsolable at the idea of parting from him, after urging every plea that affection could suggest, applied to his uncle, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who, at her request, procured the king's leave of absence. But, notwithstanding all the fondness of the husband, duty prevailed over affection, and a nice sense of honour urged her dearly-beloved lord to forsake her. The separation was, however, too much for her weak nerves to bear; she literally fell a prey to love, sunk beneath the weight of her grief, and died; thus affording a most singular and romantic instance of conjugal affection!

Shortly after his arrival in America, we find his lordship serving under Sir William Howe, with the rank of Major-general, and acting as an able and indefatigable partisan. Having landed, in November, 1786, on the New Jersey shore, at the head of a detached corps, and found Fort Lee evacuated,

cuated, he instantly penetrated into the country, and took possession of the province. At the end of the campaign, he repaired to New York, with a view to embark for Great Britain; but having received advice of the disastrous affair of Trenton, with the unpremeditated gallantry of a soldier, he deferred his voyage, and returned to the Jerseys.

His lordship's first enterprize in 1777, was an attempt to surprize an American post in his neighbourhood, in which he in part succeeded. Soon after this, he received orders from General Howe to abandon the Jerseys, and in July he embarked with the English commander-in-chief in the expedition to the Chesapeake.

This was not a contest in which large armies contended with each other, and in which the fate of a battle was to decide the lot of an empire. On the contrary, it was what the French term a *petite guerre*; a war of posts and of skirmishes, of night marches and surpises, in which the climate and the sword cut off thousands, without putting a period to hostilities. It is in vain, therefore, to expect any very splendid achievements on so narrow a field of enterprize, when it is recollected that both armies would have scarcely constituted an advanced guard to a continental general, in the conflicts we have so recently witnessed.

In several of the subsequent events, his lordship took a very active part. He commanded a considerable body of troops at the passage of the Brandywine,

wine, and after driving the enemy before him, entered and took possession of Philadelphia, on the 24th of September, 1777. This was then considered a very important acquisition; but it was soon discovered, that a country might be over-run without being subjugated, and that the possession even of a province, does not always depend on securing the capital.

From that period until 1779, when he embarked as a lieutenant-general with Sir Henry Clinton for the siege of Charlestown, he seems to have had few opportunities of signalizing himself. On the surrender of the place, the command of South Carolina, with about 4000 troops, devolved upon him. On hearing this, General Gates, who had rendered himself so famous by the capture of Burgoyne and his army at Saratoga, took post near Camden, where he had collected about 3,600 men. Lord Cornwallis, instead of being daunted at this event, advanced with an inferior force; and on the morning of the 16th of October, a severe action took place, which was soon decided by the spirit of the British troops, who, after a smart fire, had recourse to their bayonet; and the Americans having at length given way, were pursued nearly twenty miles. Seven pieces of cannon, the greater part of the baggage, and a thousand prisoners, constituted the trophies of this day.

Early in 1781, General Arnold, who now relinquished both the cause and the service of his native country, had landed in the Chesapeake, where

where he did considerable mischief to his former associates. Lord Cornwallis, on hearing of this, determined to effect a junction with him, in order to overwhelm the Marquis La Fayette, since so much celebrated for his patriotism and sufferings during the French revolution.

Accordingly, having dispatched Colonel (now General) Tarleton with the cavalry, and Colonel Simcoe being sent forward by Arnold, with the Queen's rangers, they took possession of the fords on the Nottoway and the Meherrin, the only rivers that intervened; and a junction took place between the two armies, at Petersburg, on the 20th of May. Immediately after this, the British army crossed James-river, at Westover, in pursuit of the French commander, who by this time had decamped from the neighbourhood of Richmond, and retired towards the back country with such celerity, that it was impossible to overtake him.

In the mean while, Sir Henry Clinton, who was apprehensive for the safety of New-York, blamed Lord Cornwallis for penetrating so far; and a coolness from this moment seems to have taken place, which ended in a subsequent dispute and appeal to the public. No sooner were the dispatches received, however, than his lordship, knowing that obedience is one of the first duties of a soldier, abandoned Portsmouth, and concentrated his forces at York and Gloucester.

General Washington, on learning this, was desirous to strike a blow, that might possibly put a period

period to the war, and accordingly formed the daring project of capturing the brave Earl and all his forces. Rochambeau, the French commander, entered with great spirit into the scheme; and it unluckily proved but too successful. The combined armies of France and America, in consequence of this, passed through Philadelphia, and at length arrived, on the 28th of September, in sight of York-Town, at which the British troops still remained posted, in consequence of dispatches from the commander-in-chief, promising immediate relief. Lord Cornwallis on this withdrew his forces within the place, in full confidence of holding out, until the arrival of the promised succours. The works thus abandoned by him, were occupied next day by the confederates, and the town regularly invested.

The English commander being now reduced to the alternative of either surrendering or attempting to escape, of course preferred the latter, and actually conceived the idea of crossing the river, surprising Brigadier Choise, who was posted on the other side, mounting his own infantry on the cavalry of the vanquished, and thus effecting a retreat, which would have been infinitely more glorious than any victory.

In pursuance of this design, the light infantry, &c. were actually embarked in boats, and transported to the Gloucester shores, in the course of the night; but a violent storm having arisen, the troops were driven much lower than was intended,

ed, and prevented, during a considerable time, from returning. In this distressful situation, and destitute even of ammunition, his lordship, unwilling to expose the remains of his gallant army to an assault, consented, on the 17th of October, to capitulate ; and the terms were, on the whole, not unfavourable.

Lord Cornwallis now returned to his native country, in order to repose himself after the fatigues of an unfortunate war, and enjoy all the happiness that can possibly ensue from the sweets of private friendship and public esteem.

During the political contests that took place in 1782, and 1783, his lordship was, for a time, deprived of his place as Lieutenant of the Tower of London, which he had obtained several years before ; but in the year 1784 it was restored to him. The calm that ensued after the peace, prevented his talents from being called into action for some years ; but the affairs of India no sooner began to assume a critical aspect, than a man was looked for, who united in his own person the esteem and confidence of the king, the ministry, and the people. Cornwallis was accordingly pitched upon, and immediately appointed to the high, honourable, and important situation of Governor-general of Bengal, and to dignify his mission, he was honoured with the order of the Garter.

No sooner did he arrive there, than a war took place with Tippoo Sultan, son of the famous Hyder, who, from humble beginnings, attained
great

great power, acquired extensive territories, and organized an immense army. The conduct of hostilities was at first intrusted to the Madras government; but little or no progress being made, the Governor-general left Calcutta, and proceeded to the scene of action, where he arrived on the 12th of December, 1790. Having instantly assumed the command of the grand army, he proceeded to Vellore, and seemed to meditate an attack on the Mysore country, by the Baramahal Valley. The sultaun, unacquainted with European tactics, was deceived by this motion; for the English soon after made a rapid march to the Muglu Pass, through which they penetrated with little or no opposition.

Within a few miles of Bangalore, Tippoo's army at length displayed itself on the heights, in excellent order; and it soon appeared that his subjects, as if in love with despotism, were attached both to his person and government. Notwithstanding this, Bangalore was immediately invested, and the *pettah*, or town, stormed and taken on the very next day. The reduction of the fort itself followed soon after.

The English troops having been joined by the Nizam, and a reinforcement of 5000 men, under Colonel Oldham, Lord Cornwallis determined to march against Seringapatam, the capital of Tippoo; and on the 13th of May the army arrived within sight of a place, the capture of which was expected to put a period to all its toils, and reward all its labours. As the sultaun had posted thither a few days be-

fore, and occupied an advantageous camp, it was determined to carry it, if possible, by surprise; but this scheme proved abortive, from the vigilance of the enemy, who were, nevertheless, obliged to abandon their position.

It was impossible, however, at this period, to attempt the siege of so formidable a place as Serin-gapatam; for, in addition to a variety of other causes, there was an absolute deficiency in the article of provisions.

Having, therefore, sent notice to General Abercrombie, who was marching to his assistance, to return, the Commander-in-chief destroyed his battering train, and retreated to Bangalore, being joined on his march thither by 30,000 Mahrattas.

Early, however, in the ensuing spring, the British army retraced its steps, and appeared once more before the metropolis of the Mysore, where it found Tippoo again strongly intrenched. He was, however, attacked, and obliged, as before, to retreat. The Bombay army forming a junction soon after, regular approaches were made, redoubts were raised, and had it not been for some unlucky events, in respect to which his Lordship was entirely blameless, the sultaun, after being stripped of his capital, and bereaved of his power, would have been laid prostrate at his feet.

He, however, was obliged to accept of such terms as the English commander chose to dictate. He consented to cede part of his dominions, paid a large sum of money, undertook to furnish a still
more

more considerable portion of treasure, within a limited period, &c. and entrusted two of his sons to the care of Lord Cornwallis, with whom they were to remain as hostages for the due performance of the treaty: and here it is but justice to a prince, whom we are accustomed to style a *barbarian*, to observe, that he fulfilled every article with the most scrupulous punctuality.

This important war being now ended, highly to the honour of the British arms, Lord Cornwallis returned to England, without being enriched by a post, in which avarice and rapacity could easily have realized a princely fortune—but he neither exacted a *jagbire* from the conquered sovereign, nor increased his own income by venality or extortion.

Honours and employments, both so well earned, awaited him at home. He had been before invested with the insignia of the Garter; he was now (1792) created a Marquis, admitted a member of the Privy Council; and, in addition to his other appointments, was nominated to the lucrative office of Master-general of the Ordnance, in consequence of which he had a seat in the Cabinet.

Returning once more to the bosom of domestic happiness, the Marquis seemed to promise to himself a life of ease and quiet in his native country. Such, however, was not his destiny. Ireland was disorganized, and the English power there shook to its very centre. It was even doubtful how long it would appertain to Great Britain; for it was

menaced by insurrection within, and invasion from without. One of these events had actually taken place, and the other soon followed.

In this critical state of affairs, the eyes of the cabinet, and the nation, were once more turned towards him, and he was invested with the vice-regal powers, amidst the acclamations of both kingdoms. His administration has been short; but it has been successful. The insurgents have been beaten, the disaffected have been disarmed, and an invading enemy has been taken captive. But his administration has been accompanied by merits of another, and of a better kind; for military despotism has ceased, the system of plunder and free quarters has been checked, and the torture, the rack, the whip, the scourge, and the halter, abolished, as instruments not within the pale of legitimate government*.

DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, F.R.S. &c. &c. &c.

THE names of Galileo and of Priestley, excite a multitude of melancholy ideas!—The verdict of posterity has, however, done ample justice to the

* Since the discussion of the late grand question concerning an union, the popularity of his lordship has somewhat abated, in consequence of what has been considered as an attempt to overcome the freedom of debate, by means of official dismissions; and to legalize martial-law, in civil cases.

memory of one of them ; and, although, too late to be heard by the injured individual, will assuredly rectify the mistaken opinions of his contemporaries, concerning the other. It will be scarcely believed, indeed, that within a few years of the commencement of the 19th century, an illustrious philosopher should have been driven from his native country on account of his supposed political opinions ; and that a brutal mob should have been allowed, in the name of " Church and King," to have destroyed his dwelling, threatened his person, and rendered his life unsafe, in the land which gave him birth !

Dr. Joseph Priestley was born March 13th, 1733, at Bristall-field-head, near Leeds, in Yorkshire. This part of the country, for a long series of years, has been celebrated for its manufactures, and the Priestleys were one of the first families, in point of consequence, engaged in the broad-cloth trade. The Doctor, while only seven years of age, was taken into the house of an aunt, Mrs. Keighley, and was brought up by her husband, who, having no child of his own, adopted, and appears to have transferred that affection to him, which nature had intended for his own offspring.

Mr. Joseph Keighley, after whom young Priestley was, most probably, named, was a remarkable character. He had been once, like St. Paul, a great persecutor, and like him too became a convert. So violent was he against the dissenters, that he was accustomed to find out their meetings,

which, during the times of persecution, began about eleven o'clock at night, and ended at two o'clock in the morning. Happening once to discover their place of worship, he determined to secrete himself in a convenient place, in order to develope their heterodoxical tenets, expose their heresies, detect their plots, and consign them to the vengeance of the civil magistrate. The event, however, was far different from what might have been expected from a man led astray by blind prejudices; for after attending to their rites, instead of delivering the minister up to punishment, he took him home to his house, and supported him there, until liberty was obtained for the sect.

Under this singular person, Joseph Priestley was brought up, and soon discovered an amazing attachment to learning. At the age of eleven, he surprized all who saw him, by his early proficiency. At that time he read, or rather devoured, Bunyan's works; and it was thought that he would become one of the first Calvinistical teachers of his day. But as the Priestleys were then in a flourishing state, and had acquired a certain degree of opulence and consideration by trade, they were inclined to bring him up to business. He, however, was at last sent to the academy at Daventry, under the care of Dr. Ashworth, with an intention of being bred to the dissenting ministry, and his uncle dying, his aunt paid the expences of his education.

But while the zealots for Calvinism were looking forward

forward with complacency to the time when their apostle was to commence his pious labours, a change took place, from conviction, in his religious tenets; for at this period he became acquainted with some Arian and Baxterian ministers, whose arguments appeared to be stronger than those of the sect, with whom he had heretofore been accustomed to associate.

When about twenty years of age, he settled, for a little time, with a congregation at Needham in Suffolk; but as the opinions of the teacher did not correspond with those of his flock, and he was too honest to conceal his sentiments, he was soon deserted. In this situation, he accepted of an invitation to Namptwich in Cheshire; although those who wished for his moral and spiritual assistance were not able to promise him more than 3*ol. per annum*. In order to eke out this scanty income, he acted as a schoolmaster; and happening to attract the notice of men capable of appreciating his worth, he soon acquired celebrity.

At this time, there existed a college at Warrington, in which the sons of many respectable dissenters were brought up, and where also a great number of young men were qualified for their ministry. Thither Mr. Priestley was invited, and taught the *belles lettres* in that institution, then in the zenith of its reputation.

As it was now a proper time for him to settle in life, and the means of maintaining a family presented itself, he determined to marry; he was

accordingly united to Miss Wilkinson, daughter of Mr. Wilkinson, of Bristol.

But the period had arrived, when a great revolution was to take place in this once celebrated and flourishing seminary. The principal supporters of the academy, and those who had been most liberal in their subscriptions, being cut off in the course of nature, and not being succeeded by men equally warm in their zeal, a speedy dissolution was threatened.

At this time the Doctor received an invitation to preside over a flourishing and opulent congregation at Leeds, and was advised by his friends to remove thither.

After some years' residence there, he was recommended by his friend, Dr. Price, to Lord Shelburne, who nobly wished to have in his family a literary companion, to whose society, at hours of leisure, he might resort with pleasure and advantage, and who might have a general superintendence of the education of his two sons; whilst an able tutor, the Rev. Mr. Jervis, recommended by the same friend, had the immediate care of the youths, and constantly lived with them. When in town, Dr. Priestley resided with his lordship, and had a house at Calne provided for his family, with whom he lived during the summer months, and generally walked to Bowood every day.

This situation of honourable leisure the Dr. employed in prosecuting his philosophical pursuits, with all the advantages such a worthy patron furnished

nished. He continued in that capacity during seven years; and, at the end of that period, retired with an annuity of 150*l. per annum.*

Soon after this, he had an invitation to Birmingham, where he continued until his place of residence, and the meeting-house in which he officiated, were both burned to the ground!

A little subsequent to this catastrophe, Dr. Priestley succeeded his old friend, Dr. Price, in the dissenting meeting at Hackney; but his situation being rendered particularly unpleasant, and even unsafe, on account of the times, he purchased an estate in America, and removed thither in 1794.

Since his arrival on the transatlantic continent, he has experienced many distinguished acts of favour and civility; but these have been counterbalanced by severe afflictions, for he has buried a wife and a son*.

His present residence is at Northumberland, a new built and well-situated town, in the state of Pennsylvania, about 120 miles from Philadelphia, where he enjoys an uninterrupted state of good health, and a small but very agreeable society. His eldest son, who is married, and who cultivates a large tract of territory, as well as his friend Mr.

* Dr. P. is still occupied with scientific discussions, and remains firmly attached to the doctrine of *phlogiston*, in favour of which he has adduced some fresh arguments, in two small pamphlets published in 1793 and 1796, the first intitled "Experiments on the Generation of Air from Water," and the latter "Experiments and Observations relating to the Analysis of atmospherical Air," and likewise in some letters which he has recently transmitted to the editor of the Monthly Magazine and to the Medical Repository of New York.

Cooper, late of Manchester, reside also at Northumberland, and no doubt add much to his domestic enjoyments.

The publications of Dr. Priestley are so numerous, that a bare analysis of them would fill a volume of itself. History, Divinity, Education, Politics, Philosophy, Metaphysics—all these, at different times, have been the subject of his lucubrations. But it is, probably, as an experimental enquirer, that the name and writings of this GREAT MAN will be handed down to posterity with most applause. His researches in this way are so numerous and important, that they form a kind of æra in the history of natural knowledge. Indeed, however extraordinary it may now appear, before the date of his discoveries, very little was known respecting the constituent principles of the atmosphere in which we live; he consequently ventured into this new and difficult region of philosophical investigation, with but very imperfect guides to direct his approaches to truth. Soon after the dawns of philosophy had begun to irradiate the western hemisphere, it had, indeed, been shewn, that the air had gravity and elasticity, that *some* vapours possessed the property of destroying animal life, and of extinguishing flame, and that others could be easily ignited—effects so extraordinary in their nature, that they could hardly escape common observation. Long afterwards it was likewise found, that elastic fluids, differing very materially from common air, but agreeing with

with it in weight, elasticity, and transparency, might be generated even from solid substances. And still nearer our own times, it had been demonstrated, that the mildness or causticity of certain substances depended on the presence or absence of a certain kind of air, to which the name of *carbonic acid gas* has lately been given; but it had not, we believe, occurred to any one of those who had turned their attention to this subject, that there were more kinds of air than *one*. They were far from entertaining an idea of the great difference which the ingenious experimental attempt of this philosopher has shewn to exist among them. It was left for the acute and penetrating genius of Priestley to explore the vast region of aerial science, and to produce discoveries which must perpetuate his name, as long as a taste for knowledge prevails.

In the summer of 1767, the Doctor entered upon his career of experimental enquiry, in which he seems to have pursued the plan previously chalked out by the great Bacon. His progress was marked by such rapidity and success, that the attention of philosophers in other countries was soon excited to similar pursuits, by which means he has been the cause of discoveries as unexpected as they are important. It would, however, be utterly impossible to compress the number and variety of those which have been produced by the laborious research and persevering industry of Dr. Priestley into the narrow compass of a few pages. They

They occupy many volumes, which, from the relation they have to an important branch of chemical science, the knowledge of *permanently elastic fluids*, deserve the serious consideration of those who may hereafter turn their thoughts to these subjects. It is not, however, on the nature of airs merely, that the labours of this philosopher are entitled to notice; they have thrown much light on the general principles of natural knowledge. In other departments we find him no less expert or inquisitive. His "History of the present State of Electricity," and of "The present State of Discoveries relating to Vision, Light, and Colours," are testimonies of the most honourable and satisfactory kind. The latter is a work, perhaps, but little known, though highly instructive and entertaining.

We here close our account, with the sincere wish, that

Sero in cælum redeat.

MISS HANNAH MORE.

THE controversy respecting the intellectual talents of women, as compared with those of men, is nearly brought to an issue, and greatly to the credit of the fair sex. The present age has produced a most brilliant constellation of female worthies, who have not only displayed eminent powers

in

in works of fancy, but have greatly distinguished themselves in the higher branches of composition. Our own country has the honour of enrolling among its literary ornaments many females, to whom the interests of poetry, morality, and the sciences, are greatly indebted. Among celebrated living ladies may, with justice, be mentioned the names of Barbauld, Robinson, Cowley, Smith, Radcliffe, Farren, Piozzi, Seward, Lee, Hays, Inchbald, Cappe, Plumptree, Trimmer, Yearsley, Williams, D'Arblay, Bennet, Linwood, Cofway, Kauffman, and Siddons.

The female who is the subject of the present notice is well known to the literary world, by several elegant, ingenious and useful publications. A few particulars respecting her, therefore, will not only be amusing to those who have read her works, but will also be instructive to young persons in the way of example.

Miss Hannah More is the youngest of four maiden sisters, the daughters of a clergyman, distinguished for his classical knowledge, and goodness of heart.

Hannah, who, at an early period of life, discovered a taste for literature, improved her mind during her leisure hours by reading; and soon perused not only the little paternal library, but all the books she could borrow from her friends, in the village of Hanham, near Bristol. The first which fell in her way was the *Pamela* of Richardson, the humble source of an innumerable offspring; and
happy

happy it would have been for the interests of virtue and literature, had the progeny been but as innocent as the parent.

The modesty and attainments of *Hannah More*, were spoken of with general respect in her native place, and at length acquired her the patronage of many respectable persons. In the mean time her sisters, who being also clever and amiable women, had conducted a little school with great success, were now enabled, in consequence of an encreasing reputation, to undertake the education of young persons above the situation of those to whose improvement their attention had hitherto been directed. So great, at length, was their celebrity, that several ladies of fortune and discernment prevailed upon them to remove to Bristol, about the year 1765, where they opened a boarding-school in Park-street. This seminary, in a short time, became the most respectable of its kind in the West of England; and many females of rank received their education there.

Among others, who had the advantage of profiting by the instruction of the Miss Mores', was the celebrated Mrs. *Robinson*, well known for her various elegant publications in prose and verse.

Miss *H. More*, who had removed with the family, had the good fortune of having for a next-door neighbour the Reverend Dr. *Stonehouse*; who perceiving her merits, distinguished her by his friendship, which he manifested by his instructions and recommendation. Both of these were of the most
essential

essential service to her in the cultivation of her literary taste. The doctor was a man of extensive acquaintance, general knowledge, and elegant manners. He condescended not only to examine the occasional effusions of her pen, but also to correct them, and through his hands all her early efforts passed to the press. The first of these was entitled "The Search after Happiness, a Poem," which was printed at Bristol under the doctor's eye; and on its publication in London was so favourably received, as to encourage the author to further exertions of her powers. She next published "Sir Eldred of the Bower, and the Bleeding Rock; a legendary Tale;" which style of writing was become fashionable, through the success of Dr. Goldsmith's sweet story of Edwin and Angelina.

Miss *More* now turned her attention to dramatic poetry, and produced a tragedy entitled **FATAL FALSEHOOD**; which was tolerably well received; but not so much as her **PERCY**, a tragedy, which met with universal applause. She also wrote another tragedy, called the **INFLEXIBLE CAPTIVE**; which fell short of the merit of her other dramatic pieces. The success she met with in this way was owing, in a great measure, to the immediate and commanding patronage of Garrick, who entered warmly into her interests through the recommendation of Dr. Stonehouse, with whom he was very intimate*.

She

* The doctor was one of the most correct and elegant preachers in the kingdom. When he entered into holy orders, he took
occasion

She afterwards printed a small volume of "Essays for Young Ladies," in which she has recommended to them a variety of ingenious and excellent observations upon the most important subjects, expressed in elegant language. In 1782, she published a work, perhaps the most popular of all her pieces, entitled "Sacred Dramas; to which is added, 'Sensibility, a poetical Epistle.'" In this volume, she has dramatized, in a very natural and feeling manner, some of the most affecting and instructive narratives in the sacred history. Many of these had been previously performed by her sisters' pupils; and given so much satisfaction to those who had seen the performances, or read the pieces, as to

occasion to profit, by his acquaintance with Garrick, in order to procure from him some valuable instructions in elocution. Being once engaged to read prayers, and to preach at a church in the city, he prevailed upon Garrick to go with him. After the service, the British Roscius asked the doctor what particular business he had to do when the duty was over: "None," said the other, "I thought you had (said Garrick), on seeing you enter the reading-desk in such a hurry."—"Nothing (added he) can be more indecent, than to see a clergyman set about sacred business as if he were a tradesman, and go into the church as if he wanted to get out of it as soon as possible."—

He next asked the doctor "What books he had in the desk before him?"—"Only the Bible and Prayer-book."—"Only the Bible and Prayer-book," replied the player; "why you tossed them backwards and forwards, and turned the leaves as carelessly as if they were those of a day-book and ledger."

The doctor was wise enough to see the force of these observations, and in future he avoided the faults they were designed to reprove.

occasion

occasion numerous solicitations that they might be printed. The voice of the public accorded with the sentiments of private friendship, and these dramas have not only gone through several large editions, but, we believe, they have been, and are now, frequently performed in respectable boarding-schools.

Her next production was in a different style of composition ; it was entitled " Bas Bleu, with the Tale of Florio," 1785. This poem is somewhat in the manner of Fontaine, and hits off the prevailing follies with great smartness and taste. The foundation of it was the *Blue Stocking* club, instituted by Mrs. Montague.

In 1788, appeared a small volume, called, " Thoughts on the Manners of the Great ;" which attracted an uncommon degree of curiosity. As it was anonymous, some conjectured it to be the performance of one person, and some of another. The present Bishop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and many others, were reputed to be its authors ; but at length it was discovered to have issued from the pen of Miss More. In this work she attacked, with great spirit, the encreasing licentiousness of high life.

In the period between these two publications the sisters of Miss H. Moore having resigned their school, in favour of Miss Mills, she retired with them to a neat cottage, which they had purchased with the fruits of their joint industry, at the foot of the Mendip hills.

Here they instituted a Sunday-school, which has greatly encreased, and been abundantly blessed under their pious and judicious management *.

In 1791, our author published, without her name, a useful and popular little volume, entitled "An Estimate of the Religion of the Fashionable World." This well-timed performance exposes strongly that lifeless profession of Christianity which is the general characteristic of the higher orders of society. She has herein the honour of having preceded Mr. Wilberforce, and some other eminent persons, in pleading for the necessity of a sound religious faith, in order to an acceptable course of moral practice.

About this time a society was formed, whose object was the instruction of the poor in morality and religion. The plan adopted was, to print striking, amusing, and instructive tracts, adapted to the capacities of common persons, and coming easily within their ability to purchase. On this ground the Cheap Repository was established, by which many thousands of most useful pieces have been circulated in the manufacturing towns and villages of this kingdom. In this benevolent design Miss More was one of the first concerned, and towards the success of it she has been particularly assisting by her excellent contributions. Among other useful tracts of her writing we shall only mention

* It is with no common satisfaction the Editor now announces, that no less than ten schools have been instituted by the Miss Mores in the ten adjacent villages, and that 800 children have been educated there.

"*The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain*," a little performance which persons of a refined taste may read with pleasure and profit. She also endeavoured to counteract the progress of those political principles which the French Revolution had made so fashionable; and printed some small tracts, particularly one entitled "*Village Politics*," in the way of dialogue, which obtained a wide extent of circulation.

Miss MORE has the credit of having drawn Mrs. Yearsley, the celebrated poetical milk-woman, from her obscurity into public notice and favour. When she had discovered this remarkable phenomenon, she immediately began to exert her benevolence, and by her unwearied assiduity procured a liberal subscription to the poems of this child of nature. She also drew up an interesting account of the milk-woman in a letter to Mrs. Montague; which letter, in order to enlarge the subscription, was published in the newspapers and magazines of the day. By the attentions of Miss More, a sum was raised sufficient to place the object of them in a situation more suitable to her genius. But we are sorry to be obliged to add, that a disagreement almost immediately followed the publication of the poems in question, between the author and her patroness; which is said to have been occasioned by the latter's taking the management of the subscription-money into the hands of herself and some select friends. The motive with which this was done, adds greatly to the credit of Miss More and her

friends,

friends, as it was no other than a desire to provide permanently for Mrs. Yearsley and her young family. She, however, had a different opinion, and thought it was unjust in them to withhold from her the management of her own property. She went further, and endeavoured to represent her best friend as actuated by unworthy sentiments, the least of which was, that of *envy*. Some attacks were, in consequence, made upon Miss More in different publications: but, conscious of the purity of her own views, she passed over those invidious attempts to prejudice the public mind against her in silence.

Another phenomenon in that neighbourhood also attracted Miss More's curiosity and benevolence about the same period. A strange female, of elegant figure and manners, had been seen, for some considerable time hovering about the fields near French-hay, and Hanham, of whom no particulars could be discovered. She thankfully received any humble food that was presented to her by the peasants; but always took up her night's lodging under a haystack. Various attempts were made to gain from her the place of her birth, but in vain. It was evident that she was a foreigner, and strange surmises were naturally formed, respecting her country and connexions. Miss More's humanity was roused upon this interesting occasion; and chiefly by her means the fair stranger found a comfortable asylum in the house of Mr. Henderson, at the Fishponds, father of the celebrated, but eccentric, John Henderson, of Pembroke college, Oxford.

Our

Our benevolent author wrote an account of the "Maid of the Haystack," which was printed in most of the publications of the period.

Miss More has long been honoured with the particular friendship of some of the most distinguished personages in the kingdom. She spends some months in the year at the Duke of Beaufort's seat in Gloucestershire. She is also greatly esteemed by the Bishop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and other persons eminent for literature and piety.

In the village where she resides, with her sisters, a great and pleasing reformation has been accomplished by their means. Every Sunday evening the children of the Sunday-schools, under their immediate patronage, are assembled in the school-room, together with the farmers' servants, and such other grown persons as choose to attend. In this little congregation prayers are offered up, a plain discourse read, and hymns sung. Pertinent questions are proposed to the adult part of the auditory, on the plain truths of Christianity; and the whole of this pleasing service is concluded with a cheerful hymn of praise to the God of all these mercies.

N. S.

MR. ALDERMAN BOYDELL,

In a volume containing the biography of the eminent artists of this country, claims a peculiar and pre-eminent distinction; for though the productions

ductions of his own *burin* cannot be classed with those men who have devoted their lives to the practical part of their profession, he has rendered more real service to the English school than the whole mass of our nobility, and may very fairly be denominated the father of the arts in Great Britain.

He was born on the 19th of January, 1719, at Dorrington, in Shropshire, of which place his grandfather was vicar *. His father, who was a land-surveyor, intended his son for his own profession; and had it not been for one of those little accidents which determine *the path that men are destined to walk*, he had wasted that life, which has been so honourable to himself and beneficial to his country, in measuring and valuing the acres of Shropshire squires, and the manors of Welsh baronets. Fortunately for himself, and the arts, a trifling incident gave a different direction to his mind, and led him to aim at the delineation of scenes more picturesque than the ground-plans of houses, boundaries of fields, or windings of obscure roads.

While he was yet very young, chance threw in his way “Baddeley’s Views of different Country Seats;” amongst them was one of Hawarden Castle, Flintshire, which being the seat of Sir John Glynn, by whom he was then employed in his professional capacity, and situated in the parish of which his father was an inhabitant, naturally attracted his attention. An exact delineation of a building he had

* He was afterwards vicar of Ashbourne, and rector of Mableton both in Derbyshire.

so often contemplated, afforded him pleasure, and excited an astonishment easier to conceive than describe. Considering it as an engraving, and naturally reflecting that from the same copper might be taken an almost indefinite number of impressions, he determined to quit the pen and take up the graver, as an instrument which would enable him to disseminate whatever work he could produce, in so much wider a circle. This resolution was no sooner made, than it was put in execution ; for with that spirit and perseverance which he has manifested in every succeeding scene of his life, he, at twenty-one years of age, walked up to the metropolis, and at the age of TWENTY-ONE bound himself apprentice for seven years to Mr. Toms, the engraver of the print which had so forcibly attracted his attention.

These, and accidents equally trifling, sometimes attract men of strong minds into the path *that leads direct to fame*, and have been generally considered as proving that they were born with some peculiar genius for some peculiar study ; though after all, genius is, perhaps, little more than what a great moralist has defined it—“ *A mind with strong powers, accidentally directed to some particular object* ; for it is not easy to conceive that a man who can run a given distance in a short time with his face to the east, could not do the same thing if he turned his face to the west.” Be this as it may :—It is recorded of Cowley, that by reading Spenser’s “ Faerie Queen,” he became a poet. Pope says of himself that

while yet a boy he acquired his first taste for poetry by the perusal of Sandys' Ovid and Ogilby's Virgil; Sir Joshua Reynolds had the first fondness for his art excited by the perusal of Richardson's treatise on Painting; and, as we have before observed, Mr. Alderman Boydell was induced to learn the art of engraving by the coarse print of a coarse artist, representing a mishapen Gothic castle.

His conduct, during his apprenticeship, was eminently assiduous; eager to attain all possible knowledge of an art on which his mind was bent, and of every thing that would be useful to him; and impelled by an industry that seems inherent in his nature *, whenever he could, he attended the academy in St. Martin's-lane to perfect himself in drawing; his leisure hours in the evening were devoted to the study of perspective, and learning French without the aid of a master;—to improve himself in the pronunciation of the language he had thus acquired, he regularly attended at the French chapel.

After very steadily pursuing his business for six years, finding himself a better artist than his teacher, he bought from Mr. Toms the last year of his apprenticeship, and became his own master; and

* How striking a contrast does his conduct form to that of Chatelaine, who was at the same period employed by Mr. Toms, and in the same workshop etched and engraved at one shilling an hour; but who, with all his taste and talents, and he had much of both, was so dissipated and idle, that at the expiration of the first half-hour he frequently demanded his sixpence, and retired to a neighbouring alehouse to expend it.

the

the first use he made of his freedom was to return into his own country, where he married a very deserving young person to whom he had an early attachment, and with whom he lived many years in great felicity. During his stay he sketched many drawings of different romantic spots, and remarkable buildings, in Derbyshire and Wales *, which he afterwards engraved : but his first publication made its appearance in 1745, immediately after he was out of his time, and was entitled *the bridge-book* ; it consisted of six small-sized landscapes designed and engraved by himself, and sold at a shilling. With this the public were pleased, and the sale of it encouraged and enabled him to proceed with vigour in his future works. The paper and printing would now cost more than the sum the book was at that time sold for.

The arts were then at a very low ebb : inferior prints, from poor originals, were almost the only works which our English artists were *thought* capable of performing, nor were they (with the exception of the inimitable Hogarth, and two or three more), in general, qualified for much better things. The few people who had a taste for higher art, gratified themselves by the purchase of Flemish and Italian pictures, or French prints ; for which, even at that period, the country was drained of very

* Among these were a view of the straits in Dovedale, Matlock baths, Cromford, Beeston-castle, Chester-castle, Conway-castle, and Denbigh-castle.

large sums of money. This, to a young man, who felt that his own interest was hurt, and the nation dishonoured, and who was conscious that, with proper encouragement, better things might be done, must have been a mortifying prospect. But though he might lament that the course of the stream ran so much against his own and his country's interest, his powers did not then enable him to turn the current; he, therefore, for the present, followed it, and designed and engraved many views of places in and about London; which were generally published at the low price of one shilling each. Besides these, he copied many prints from Vandewelde, Brooking, Berghem, Ostade, Castiglione, Salvator Rosa, &c *.

The facility with which he drew, etched, and managed the dry needle, enabled him to complete a great number of prints; and with a view of shewing the improvement of the art since the time of their publication, the alderman lately collected the whole into one port folio, and published it at five guineas †.

In

* Even at this period, he was so much alive to fame, that after having past several months in copying an historical picture of Coriolanus, by Sebastian Concha, he so much disliked his own engraving, that he cut the plate to pieces.

† The number of these prints, which were drawn and engraved at a time when the artist had much other business to attend to, displayed uncommon industry; and the manner in which many of them are executed, evince talents, that practice, and his constitutional perseverance, would have rendered highly respectable,

In his introduction to this work, he fairly remarks :

“ That to the lovers of the fine arts it may be an object of some curiosity, as it was from the profits of these prints that the engraver of them was first enabled to hold out encouragement to young artists in this line, and thereby, he flatters himself, has somewhat contributed to bring the art of engraving in England to such a state of superiority. It may likewise be added, that *this is the first book that ever made a Lord Mayor of London*. Few men have had the happiness of seeing, in a single lifetime, such a rapid improvement ; and the publisher will be gratified, if in the future history of the art, his very extensive undertakings shall be thought to have contributed to it. When the smallness of this work is compared with what has followed, he hopes it will impress all young artists with the truth of what he has already held out to them—that *industry, patience, and perseverance, united to talents, are certain to surmount all difficulties.*”

To return from the alderman's precepts, to his publications—Finding that the taste for prints encreased, and that sums larger and larger were

able. The man who could engrave such a print as the Medea and Jason, from Salvator Rosa—if he had not become the first in his profession—must have been *in the very first line*. The pen and ink drawing of Wrexham-church, several views in Derbyshire, &c. and a very correct and spirited copy from Hogarth's enraged musician, are now in the possession of Mrs. Nicol, of Pall-mall.

annually

annually drawn out of this country by French artists, he sought for an English engraver who could equal, if not excel them—and in Woollet he found one. The temple of Apollo from Claude, and two premium pictures by the Smiths of Chichester, were among the first that he engraved; but the Niobe, and the Phæton, from Wilson, which were published by subscription at 5*s.* each, were the two great pillars on which Woollet's well-earned reputation was built. For the first of them, the alderman agreed to give the engraver fifty guineas *; and when it was completed he paid him a hundred. The second, the artist agreed to paint for fifty guineas, and the alderman paid him one hundred and twenty. *Proof-prints* were not, at that time, considered as having any particular value; the few that were taken off to examine the progress of the plate, were delivered to such subscribers as wished to have them, at the same price as the common impressions. Several of these have been since bought in public auctions, at ten pounds each. At Mr. Hilliard's sale, one of them sold for eleven guineas.

The number of fine—of inimitably fine prints, which have been since that time engraved in this

* The immense difference between the prices paid to artists *now* and *then*, is almost incredible:—the Messrs. Boydells, in their advertisement to the print of Major Pearson, assert, that painting the picture, engraving the print, and every incidental expence, cost them the immense sum of five thousand pounds.

country,

country, have, indisputably, fixed the English school above every other in Europe ; and been a very important article in the commerce of this nation, by altering the balance immensely in our favour.

The alderman has not confined himself to prints ; he has also done more towards establishing an English school of historical painting than any other man : it is hardly necessary to say, we allude to the Shakspeare gallery ; an undertaking of a magnitude that was never before attempted, and conducted in a manner that must astonish every nation in Europe. With that enthusiastic ardour which he feels for the promotion of the arts, he has presented to the corporation of the city of London several very valuable pictures ; which are placed in the council chamber, at Guildhall. Some of them are calculated to commemorate the actions of those heroes who have done honour to the British name * ; and others, to impress on the minds of the rising generation the sentiments of virtue, industry, and prudence, in several very well-imagined allegorical representations, painted by Messrs. Rigaud, Smirke, Westall, &c. Such is the slight memorial of his conduct, as an artist and protector of the arts.

On his conduct as a citizen, it is not necessary for this page to record any eulogium. In the dis-

* The half length of Lord Heathfield, is, perhaps, the finest portrait that Sir Joshua Reynolds ever painted.

ferent offices of alderman, sheriff, and first magistrate of the city of London, he has acted in a manner that will be remembered, and by many remembered gratefully ;—for though inflexibly just, he was ever merciful ; and when husbands came before him, with complaints of their wives ; masters, of their servants or apprentices ; fathers, of their children ; he invariably, and often successfully, tried to reconcile them to each other, and accommodate their differences.

To the duties of his office he has ever been peculiarly attentive, and very often, when it was not in his rotation, supplied the place of a brother alderman. This, considering the great attention necessary to his own business, is no slight trouble ; but he has been enabled to do it from having generally arranged his business, so as to be before-hand with the duties of the occasion. In this, his character is diametrically opposite to that of the late duke of Newcastle ; of whom George II. once said, that *he lost an hour* every morning, and was *running after it* all the rest of the day.

Of the alderman's simplicity of manners, integrity of mind, and private worth, much might be said---but *he lives*---and may his life and health be prolonged, and continue to be honourable to himself and useful to his fellow-citizens.

MR. GEORGE DYER.

THE subject of this memoir is descended from reputable parents; very early in life, he, himself, was sent to Christ's hospital, a most excellent institution, which has furnished the universities with admirable scholars, the church with many learned divines, the navy with able officers; and what, in a commercial nation like this, is no small praise, the exchange, with enterprising and successful merchants.

The youthful student discovered an astonishing attachment to books; and what, in such an institution, is no trifling distinction, is said to have actually got to the top of the school, sooner than ever was known before his time*. This rare instance of assiduity, was accompanied by a passion, which but seldom attends on industry—a strong propensity for poetry. Pope, speaking of himself, says:

“As yet a child, nor yet a fool to fame,

“I lisp'd in numbers, for the numbers came.”

This seems to have been also the case of George Dyer, with only this difference, that while the one wooed the muses in his vernacular tongue only, the other had likewise recourse to a foreign idiom, and addressed the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne, in what is supposed to have been their native lan-

* It may not be amiss here to observe, that his masters were the Rev. Peter Wholley and Rev. James Penn, both known to the world, as literary men.

guage. This classical taste, particularly his ardent attachment to the Greek and Latin authors, at length procured him a patron in the person of Dr. Askew, a physician of great fortune, and considerable influence; distinguished for his knowledge of Greek literature, and his valuable collection of books and MSS. in the same language. Pleased with the early proficiency, and congenial disposition of the young man, he took an interest in his studies, and pursuits; and presaging that he would distinguish himself at some future period, promised that he should see him amply provided for. But, alas! such is the uncertainty of human life, that this worthy man was cut off soon after; and that, too, at a time, when his pupil only beheld the *blossoms*, and had not yet realized the *fruits* of expectation.

Notwithstanding this severe loss, he repaired to Cambridge; and, in consequence of the connexion above alluded to, chose Emanuel college, where his friend had been educated.

It may not be improper here to observe, that a considerable time previous to this epoch, Mr. Dyer acquired somewhat of a gloomy cast of mind, and connected himself with many of the sectaries. In consequence of this, the classics were no longer such favourites as before; *modern* religionists were recurred to, in preference to *heathen poets*; and even the ruling passion was suspended: for the muses and methodism do not assort well together!

During the greater part of his stay at Emanuel college, George led a retired life; frequenting only the

the company of some few men who happened to think like himself. His religious propensities do not seem, however, to have altogether relaxed his ardour for study, as his application was still conspicuous: though his mind revolted at the trammels of collegiate discipline. This is not at all to be wondered at, when his *favourite pursuits* are recollected; for men of fervid imaginations are unwilling to subject themselves to the rigour of the Alexandrian school: and although Ptolemy, king of Egypt, disdained not to become the pupil of Euclid, yet but few poets or religionists have evinced a turn for mathematics. Indeed, such an aversion is not difficult to be accounted for: this sublime science is founded on *demonstration*, and it is not on such a basis, that either the fancy of the one, or the superstition of the other, can possibly be erected.

Mr. D.'s studies were accordingly confined to Metaphysics, Theology, and the Classics. Some time before he had taken his degree, his mind began to range abroad, and to speculate freely, relative to systematic christianity, and abstract enquiries concerning first truths. If this propensity be not unfortunate, it is, at least, *unprofitable*; more especially to a young man like the present, all of whose hopes in life originated either from his college or the church. The consequence was, that after a fit of melancholy, the stern dictates of principle got the better of all interested views, and

the theologian (for such he had now become) determined to overstep the threshold of the church.

All golden dreams of preferment being thus blasted in the very outset, by the breath of conscientious scruples, Mr. D. naturally turned his mind towards a situation, for which he seems to have been admirably adapted, both by the excellence of his education, and the placidness of his manners. Instructed himself, he, accordingly, determined to instruct others, and for some time assisted the Rev. Dr. Grimwood, who then kept a very respectable academy at Dedham, in Essex, from which he has lately retired.

But he at length determined to return to Cambridge, where he at made an open avowal of his dissent from the established church. While at the university, he had become acquainted with a very extraordinary man, the Rev. Robert Robinson, the apostle of the Baptists, with whom he for some time resided; at this period, he preached occasionally in his meeting-house, which almost faced Emanuel college; he also appeared frequently in the pulpits of others of the dissenting clergy, both at Cambridge, Oxford, &c.

After signalising himself in this manner for some time, without any particular adherence to creeds or systems, Mr. D. at length determined to put a period to his mission.

Having repaired to Cambridge, he was encouraged to undertake a work on the subscription to the XXXIX articles of the church of England.

Many

Many of the dissenters countenanced the plan; and there were not wanting several even within the walls of the university who encouraged it, such as the Rev. Mr. Tyrwhitt, who actually introduced a grace for the removal of what he conceived to be an intolerable burden; Mr. Hammond, fellow of Queen's, and Mr. Friend, fellow of Jesus'.

Having now acquired a certain degree of reputation from his "Inquiry into the Nature of Subscriptions," &c. he determined to try his fortune in London. His first occupation in the capital required great memory, and some talents; these he possessed, but it was attended with a degree of drudgery that proved intolerable. He accordingly soon discovered, that the office of reporter of the debates in the House of Commons was unsuitable to his disposition; he therefore quickly relinquished it, and published a second edition of his book on Subscription, greatly enlarged and improved. It is a miscellaneous composition, and abounds with politics, theology, metaphysics, criticisms on the scriptural text, an examination of the fathers, &c. About the same time he printed a volume of poems.

Mr. D. now formed an extensive acquaintance among men of letters, and engaged in the business of professional criticism, being at that time employed in writing for the Reviews, a pursuit he has for some time ceased to be engaged in; he also assisted gentlemen in acquiring, or regaining, their knowledge of the classics.

It should be observed here, that on his arrival in the metropolis he threw off his black coat, and assumed, in all respects, a *secular appearance*, except in respect to his hair, which still favoured of the ecclesiastical tonsure: he, however, has lived long enough in the world to see even this become fashionable; for, after having been confined for some centuries to the clergy, it has been recently adopted by the *beau monde*.

On his coming to town, he found party disputes and opinions running very high; but although he himself had been an orator in the pulpit, and was accustomed at times to speak *extempore*, yet he never delivered his sentiments in any society of the reformers; for he seems to have considered himself in his *political noviciate*, and to have preserved the reserve so rigorously enjoined to the disciples of the Samian sage. But, although silent himself, he may have been said to have, literally, *opened the mouths of others*; as he wrote several songs for political clubs, calculated to promote festivity, and relax the brow of care from the fatigues and disappointments of life.

Soon after the much-dreaded "Rights of Man," which had nearly effected a revolution in the political world, made its appearance, Mr. Dyer published the first edition of "The Complaints of the Poor People of England," with the motto of "fiat justitia." This must be confessed, even at that time, to have been a bold pamphlet; now it would be *intolerable*, and might subject publisher, author, and,

and, perhaps, printer, to the unfriendly greetings of his Majesty's attorney-general!

His next work was a treatise on the "Theory and Practice of Benevolence," intended as an appendix to the former: it contains some facts relative to the state prisoners.

After this followed his "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Robert Robinson, late Minister of the Dissenting Congregation, in St. Andrew's Parish, Cambridge."

The last performance, of any size, by Mr. Dyer, appears to be "The Poet's Fate," produced in 1797, in which he traces, in some very good lines, the sufferings and distresses of the votaries of the muses, not only in modern, but also

—"In ancient times, long ere poor Butler sigh'd,

"Or dinnerless the polish'd Lovelace died."

This is to be followed by "Poetic Sympathies."

He has published, besides those already enumerated, a Satirical Prologue to the celebrated Latin comedy of Ignoramus, in which he does not spare even *lawn sleeves*, when a proper occasion offers; and he has lately undertaken to print his poetical works, for which there is the promise of a handsome subscription.

On the whole, George Dyer must be allowed to be a singular character. In order to furnish his mind with facts, and gratify his eye with a pleasing romantic scenery, he undertook, and actually accomplished, a tour, principally, if not wholly, *on foot*, through the most interesting parts of England, Scot-

land, and Wales. No man in this country is more conversant with what may be termed the cradle and the grave of genius—the free-schools and the prisons of the island, most of which he has visited in person. The present state of his mind, in respect to religion, we are wholly unacquainted with; of all the ancient sects, however, he seems most to resemble the Peripatetics, who placed the *summum bonum*, “not in the pleasures of passive sensation, but in the due exercise of the moral and intellectual faculties.” Like them too, he has been accustomed to imbibe or retail instruction while he walked; and as this country has not, like Athens of old, a *Peripaton*, he frequently indulges in the street or the public road.

There is another peculiarity observable in this gentleman: this consists in the rejection of all titles from his works; for which, he says, he has history, philosophy, and even Christianity on his side. He also observes very shrewdly in one of his publications, “that those artificial distinctions which originated in tyranny, and are perpetuated by custom, lie at the bottom of many serious evils that exist in society.”

MR. D'ISRAELI.

THIS gentleman is the only son of a respectable Italian merchant, who has long resided in this country,

country, and who is well known and esteemed upon 'Change.

The early part of his youth was passed at the country residence of his father at Enfield, where he was sent to a neighbouring school. Here he learned nothing but a little imperfect Latin; enough, however, to perceive that there were beauties in Virgil and Horace, which his pedagogue could not assist him in discerning and appreciating. After a residence of several years, the affectionate care of his parents supplied him with a variety of masters; but as he revolted against the discipline of elementary knowledge, it was resolved that he should be sent to a private seminary in the city of Amsterdam. A year had scarcely passed under his new tutor, when he became the master of his master. If he had made no progress in classical literature, he had now, however, acquired a considerable knowledge of all the modern languages; he declaimed passages from the plays of the Spanish Calderon, the *Luciad* of the Portuguese Camoens, the *Jerusalem* of Tasso, and particularly from the *Henriade* of Voltaire. He formed a passionate attachment to the higher class of French writers; he felt with all the energy of taste, the rich imagination and seductive periods of Rousseau, the pointed and brilliant diction of Voltaire, and the conciseness and delicacy of Montesquieu.

On returning to his native country, he again retired to the country-house of his father. He now indulged more extensively in an uninterrupted perusal of authors of taste. He saw, with pleasure, that he

was neither adapted by nature nor designed by his friends for a commercial life. Having made a tour through France and Italy, he returned with a valuable collection of books, particularly in the French language. He by this time had a confirmed taste for the literature of that refined and volatile people; and, as he has observed, among them he not only found works of taste, not elsewhere to be met with, but a vast resource for the *Materia Literaria* which exists in no other nation.

The earliest performance avowedly by Mr. D'Israeli is "A Poetical Epistle on the Abuse of Satire," which was written, we understand, to gratify a certain man of letters, who was his neighbour, and who smarted under the scourge of Peter Pindar. As a first production, it exhibits his poetical talents to considerable advantage. This effusion afterwards procured him the friendship of Dr. Wolcott, who has not only encouraged his poetical efforts, by unequivocal marks of his approbation, but conferred on him still more useful services, by many proofs of his friendship.

In 1790, Mr. D'Israeli made a more formal appearance in public, by addressing a poem, entitled "A Defence of Poetry," to the present laureat. The whole edition, excepting a few copies sold, was burnt by the author; undeservedly, it seems, for the Monthly review of March, 1791, gives it the following character:—

"Mr. D'Israeli is among the few modern poets who have attained their (the muses) favour; they appear, from the testimony
" before

“ before us, to have distinguished him from the crowd, and to have
 “ allowed him a plenteous draught from their fountain of inspir-
 “ ation. He is not without a knowledge of the requisites of ge-
 “ nuine poetry : his versification is elegant, flowing, and harmoni-
 “ ous ; nor can we read this specimen of his abilities, without per-
 “ ceiving that he has devoted his days and his nights to our im-
 “ mortal Pope.”

In 1791, from these elevations of poetry, our author descended into the humble, but, with him, the agreeable and entertaining path of compilation. The first volume of his “ *Curiosities of Literature* ” was published anonymously ; but the fascination of public favour induced him to prefix his name to the second. These compilations soon became popular, and have been a source of numerous imitations. The volumes form a rich repository of literary anecdote, and contain many original and well-written criticisms. The rapid sale of three large editions is the best proof of the public opinion.

As an original writer, he soon afterwards produced his “ *Dissertation on Anecdotes*,” of which work the *Critical Review* for January, 1794, observes, that

“ This is an eccentric, an ingenious, and philosophical per-
 “ formance. The author, in a very masterly way, vindicates the de-
 “ tailer of anecdotes from the charge of being a literary trifler, and
 “ his remarks are extremely sensible and entertaining ; they are
 “ given in a lively strain of reasoning, and form a very judicious
 “ and curious speculation.”

This was followed by his “ *Essay on the Literary Character*.” The merits of this ingenious and original performance are too generally known to require

require any eulogium in this place, and it certainly ranks first among his works.

In 1796, he produced a volume of *Miscellanies*; it is not so original as his two former productions, but the diction, as usual, is highly polished, and the anecdotes are uncommon and curious.

His next performance was a philosophical novel, in two volumes, under the title of "*Vaurien*." The chief object of this work was to satirize certain literary eccentricities and *monstrosities* which have lately been obtruded upon the public. Some of the game was doubtless fair; a few characters were, however, too much overstrained and caricatured to impress every reader with the justice of the attack.

He has lately published a work, which promises considerably to exalt his reputation as a fine writer. It consists of several romances, embellished with original poetry.

Mr. D'Israeli is unmarried, and at this time about thirty years of age. His habits and connexions are as strictly literary as those of any resident of the metropolis. Few persons read and write more; scarcely any compose with equal rapidity; and, if close application do not injure his health, the execution of some of his literary designs promise considerable future gratification to the public.

A. D.

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS.

THE life of this gentleman is not barren of incident, for unlike that of most men of letters, his has been active and enterprizing ; and very few of his movements have been unaccompanied with a correspondent effect.

Mr. Williams was born in Wales. His father's circumstances having become somewhat embarrassed, in consequence of unsuccessful speculations in mines, he sought for refuge from the reflections incident to the state into which he had involved himself, and numerous family, by flying to the comforts of religion.

He at this time resided in Glamorganshire, where his son David was born ; who, with his other children, was sent to a neighbouring school for education. Old Mr. Williams, by associating with the methodists, had imbibed their principles and enthusiasm ; and resolved to train up his son to the church, probably intending him for a teacher among his sect, and, no doubt, expecting him to become one of its saints !

David discovered lively and promising abilities ; but such as by no means qualified him for the station designed for him, to which, indeed, he had an insuperable repugnance. Yet a parent's dying injunctions controlled his resolution, and he went reluctantly through the preparatory forms of education, necessary to fit him for the dissenting ministry.

His

His first appearance, in the character of a preacher, was at Froome, in Somersetshire ; where, although he could not conceal the dislike he entertained to the primness and preciseness of the dissenters ; yet he soon made himself beloved and admired by his congregation. His reputation for abilities spread so rapidly, that at the age of twenty-two he was invited to Exeter, as the successor of two celebrated pastors ; and he underwent the requisite formalities of ordination, in order to qualify him for the ministry in the Arian congregation there.

Soon after this, he embarked in a plan which originated at Liverpool, to introduce a Socinian liturgy among the dissenters. A society, for this purpose, had been founded at the Octagon chapel there, by the persons who had conceived the design ; and Mr. Williams soon persuaded his congregation to adopt it : this affords no common instance of their attachment to him ! In that city he might have lived an easy and agreeable life ; but he at length became disgusted at some hypocritical schemes he had discovered, and actually determined to quit the West of England.

On his arrival in London, he received some distinguished civilities from the dissenters, and did duty at one of their congregations at Highgate, until he had prepared a plan of education which he meant to carry into practice.

While at Highgate, he preached a course of " Sermons on Religious Hypocrisy," which he published

published in two volumes, 8vo. In 1770, he wrote a poignant "Letter to Mr. Garrick, on his Conduct and Talents as Manager and Performer;" this was followed by a work called "The Philosopher," consisting of three polemical conversations; with dedications to Lord Mansfield, and the bishop of Gloucester.

When a respectable body of clergy, chiefly dissenters, met at the Feathers tavern, to petition for relief in the subscription to the thirty-nine articles, Mr. Williams was applied to, and, at their solicitation, drew up some "Essays on public Worship, Patriotism, and Projects of Reformation;" which were printed and published, but are said to contain sentiments approximating more towards deism than his employers wished. An appendix was added afterwards, which is peculiarly severe on the conduct of the dissenters, with whom he afterwards broke off all connexion.

About the year 1773, being then resident at Chelsea, he brought forward his plan of education, founded on the outline given by Commenius, when he was invited here, to reform the English schools, and whose design was frustrated by the civil wars. Mr. Williams distinguished himself, on this occasion, in such a manner, that although he was a stranger in the neighbourhood, and his religious tenets lay under some imputation among the orthodox, yet he met with great encouragement. The *honorarium* of his pupils, was high; but, notwithstanding this, their number was considerable.

He

He was now in a fair way of making his fortune, and of introducing a more rational and easy mode of education; when, at this critical period, he lost his wife, a loss, which, notwithstanding all his philosophical fortitude, he was unable to support: he accordingly fled both from his habitation and institution, to take shelter in a remote part of Derbyshire, where, for some time, he indulged his melancholy.

While at Chelsea, he published a Treatise on Education, in a duodecimo volume; which contains some uncommonly acute and judicious remarks on that subject, and discloses his sentiments with respect to revealed religion.

During his residence there, the celebrated Dr. Franklin, with whom he was intimate, took refuge in his house, from the storm he apprehended would follow Mr. Wedderburne's unwarranted attack on him at the council-board; an event which is said to have had more effect towards the crisis which soon followed, than can be easily imagined. And here, we are assured it was that the philosopher of Pennsylvania, concerted with his friend the plan of a deistical and philosophical lecture. This scheme was, at length, carried into practice; for on his return to London, Mr. Williams opened a chapel in Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, in which he was supported by several persons of consequence and fortune, &c. &c. The complexion of his discourses was, however, neither relished by churchmen nor dissenters; accordingly, although many
went

went to hear him, few enrolled their names as members.

While officiating in this capacity, he published the Inauguration Sermon, two volumes of Lectures on the Universal Principles of Religion and Morality, and a Liturgy for the Chapel. Notwithstanding a variety of obstacles, he continued his labours, during a period of nearly four years; but as the subscribers did not increase, he removed to a private room, where he delivered his opinions before those who supported the institution. His society was, indeed, small; but it was as respectable as any in England.

Mr. Williams's other publications consist of a pamphlet on "The Nature and Extent of Intellectual Liberty;" "A Plan of Association, on Constitutional Principles," a tract written at the time of the riots in London; "Letters on Political Liberty;" occasioned by the country meetings and associations, in 1782; "Lectures on Political Principles," "Lectures on Education;" and, a "History of Monmouthshire," in one volume, 4to.

Several anonymous works have been attributed to Mr. Williams, such as "Royal Recollections;" but this is so infinitely beneath his abilities, that no one of his friends can allow it to be his. The "Lessons to a Young Prince," and "An Apology for professing the Religion of Nature in the eighteenth Century," may possibly have come from

from his pen, and they are not unworthy of it. Some of the above works, which must be allowed to possess a large share of intrinsic merit, shew that Mr. W. had early turned his thoughts to political enquiries; and this important branch of knowledge is said to have been first suggested to his mind, in consequence of his assistance having been called for, in some parliamentary transactions.

His religious and political opinions at length connected him intimately with the popular party in this country, and his celebrity recommended him to the notice of the *Girondists* in France, who invited him over to assist them in the formation of the constitution. He was intimately acquainted with Brissot * while in England; and this journey, which introduced him to the friendship of all the great political leaders of the day, was not unaccompanied with some personal danger: for, as he recommended mercy to the king, the Jacobins branded him with the title of royalist, and he was actually denounced as such in their club. Mr. Williams saw so clearly the designs of this faction, and was so certain of the result, that he foretold to their opponents, when he parted with them,

* Brissot first became acquainted with Mr. Williams in consequence of the writings of the latter. On his return to his native country, amidst the turmoils of one of the most wonderful revolutions that ever agitated mankind, he consulted Mr. W. as his oracle, and was forewarned by him of his danger. Had he followed his advice, the present situation of France, and, indeed, of Europe, might have been more auspicious!

that,

that, if they did not destroy the Jacobins, the Jacobins would soon destroy them * !

Soon after his return, a very extraordinary instance of the offence he had given to a certain quarter occurred. He had been engaged by Mr. Bowyer, of Pall-Mall, to write the History of England, from the Revolution to the present time ; this was designed as a continuation of Hume, and was to be ornamented with superb plates. The first artists in the kingdom were employed on the occasion, and Mr. Williams's name was announced in the prospectus, evidently written by himself. But this engagement with the public was broken, after the intended author had made every necessary arrangement incident to so grand an undertaking. In short, he was informed by Mr. Bowyer, that his services *must* be dispensed with, in consequence of certain intimations of the displeasure of a great personage ! Mr. Bowyer, however, found that a compromise was necessary to protect him from a suit in chancery.

We

* The celebrated Madame Roland speaks highly of the political talents of Mr. Williams, in many parts of her very animated work.

“ Paine,” says she, “ is better calculated to produce a revolution, than to assist in the formation of a constitution. He seizes, he establishes, those grand principles, the exposition of which strikes every one at first sight, ravishes a club, and produces enthusiasm at a tavern ; but for the cool discussion of a committee, for the connected labours of the legislator, I consider

DAVID WILLIAMS

“ as infinitely more proper.

L L

“ Williams

We have now detailed some of the events, by which the life of this extraordinary man has been marked. What his employment may be at present is not generally known, but he still continues to distinguish himself by his laudable exertions in support of a most useful institution, "The Literary Fund," of which he is said to be the founder.

Against so bold, so manly, and so able an advocate in behalf of civil and religious liberty, much malignity has occasionally been displayed; to deprecate such malignity, or defend him from the attacks of the enemies of such principles, would be superfluous, because it would be unnecessary. We leave the friend of Franklin, and Roland, to defend himself, whenever an assailant shall appear worthy of such a contest.

"Williams, although, like him, created a French citizen, was not nominated to the convention, where he would have proved infinitely more useful. But the government invited him to Paris, where he passed some months, and conversed often with the principal deputies.

"A sage thinker, a real friend to mankind, he appeared to me to combine their modes of happiness, as well as Paine described those evils that constituted their misery."

DOCTOR JOHN DOUGLAS,

BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

THIS prelate, who is a native of Scotland, has been long celebrated both in the clerical and literary world. He was educated at Christ-church, Oxford, of which college he was a student in 1738, and having taken orders, settled in Shropshire. During his residence there, he published "*Milton vindicated*" (1748). In this work, he detected the *forgery* of LAUDER, a learned Scotsman; who not content with pointing out a number of passages in the writings of *Masenius*, and other modern Latin poets, which Milton appeared to have imitated in his *Paradise Lost*; had the wickedness to translate about *forty lines*—(in *all*) from Milton's work into Latin,—to ascribe these translated lines, to *his* modern Latin poets,—and to represent Milton as having originally stolen them, with mean and gross plagiarism. The forgery was base; yet the English were still *willing* to regard every syllable of Milton's poem, as flowing from original poetical inspiration. The pretended detection of his plagiarisms, excited among them emotions of general shame and rage. The Whigs, the enthusiastic admirers of Milton's politics, as well as of his muse, regarded Lauder's publication, as a contrivance of the Scottish Jacobites; for *their* confusion, Douglas seasonably dis-

covered an inaccuracy in one of Lauder's quotations. He pursued the investigation, and luckily detected the forgery. Lauder sunk before him, and was overwhelmed with odium and ignominy. Douglas derived from this incident the first rise of his fortunes. The English thought, they could never be too grateful for so seasonable a support of their poetical idol.—After all, it must be owned, that *Lauder's* erudition and acuteness were superior to those of his opponent; and that his plan of tracing, in the authors which Milton must have read, the sources of some of his excellencies, was that of a judicious and even philosophical critic.

Dr. D. next entered the lists with Archibald Bower, who pretended to have been a commissioner of the holy inquisition at Macerata. Bower proved a more doughty adversary than Lauder; accused Douglas, as the creature of the English Jesuits, who had orders, from their superiors, to ruin Bower's reputation in England, denied the charges which were urged against him; and defended himself with a flow of virulent and superlatively abusive language which has scarcely ever been equalled in controversy.

Douglas continued to rise in reputation, and to gain new friends. In 1754, he published "*Criterion*," an answer to David Hume on miracles, which is now forgotten. His first work had recommended him to the learned, the last to the religious world; and about the year 1760, he began to reap the benefit they entitled him to, for he was then
appointed

appointed one of the king's chaplains. In 1762, he was nominated one of the canons of Windsor: and was soon after presented to the united livings of St. Austin and St. Faith, in London.

Among the many friends Dr. Douglas had made, was the late Lord Bath, who bequeathed him his library. But General Pulteney being unwilling to part with it out of the family, paid him the full value, and on his death, about three years after, left it once more to him. From Windsor, our divine was, in 1776, removed to be a canon of St. Paul's; and after possessing that canonry about twelve years, he was, in 1788, advanced to the Deanry of Windsor.

In these situations, the Doctor not only enlarged his circle of friends among the great, but was introduced to the notice of the king and queen, and acquired a considerable degree of royal favour. He was next raised to the episcopal bench, on the death of Dr. Law, Bishop of Carlisle, and on the translation of Dr. Barrington to Durham, in 1791, he was translated to Salisbury; by the possession of which see, he has become chancellor of the order of the garter.

The episcopal character of Dr. Douglas is a subject of universal admiration, while benevolence and candour distinguish him in private life. Regular in the discharge of the duties of his high station, he commands the love and respect of his diocese. In short, as a dignified clergyman and scholar, a gentleman and a christian, he is equally respected, and admired.

When the ships sent out on discovery under Captain Cook returned, Doctor Douglas was appointed to inspect and arrange the journals; and the admired introduction prefixed to that work is the offspring of his pen.

The doctor was a member of the Literary Club in Essex-street, instituted by Dr. Johnson, Murphy, &c. Z,

LORD NELSON.

IT is not without reason that confederate men are sometimes unwilling to relate the history of *living* persons, since it is evident that a *faithful* narrative, under such circumstances, is an undertaking of peculiar delicacy.—To awaken interest and emulation, without being either minute or partial—and to satisfy the reader of a biographical memoir, without offending the subject of it, or violating the laws of truth, are objects whose value are only proportionate to their difficulty.—Particulars relating to men who have eminently served their country, can scarcely fail to excite attention.—If they are communicated with accuracy and spirit, they will also excite pleasure.

Of all the services which the English, as a nation, receive, those they derive from their navy are the most lasting and acceptable.—The public are sensible of this.—The courage and generosity

of our seamen are subjects of honourable boast in the mouths of Britons.—Commendation for such virtues is not the result of undue partiality, but of gratitude and justice; it is a debt due to merit, and one that we pay with satisfaction.

Rear admiral, now Lord Nelson, to whom his country is indebted for his brilliant services, is a younger son of the Rev. Mr. Nelson, rector of Burnham-Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk; in the parsonage-house of which parish he was born, September 29th, 1758. His father's family came originally from Hilborough in the same county, where they possessed a small patrimony, and the patronage of the living. His mother was Miss Suckling, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Suckling, of Suffolk; grand-daughter of the late Sir Charles Turner, of Warham, in the county of Norfolk, bart. by his lady, the sister of Sir Robert Walpole.

Captain Suckling, his lordship's maternal uncle, was his early and very valuable friend. He was an officer in the sea service; and commanded first the *Raisonnable* of sixty-four guns, then the *Triumph*, and died comptroller of the navy.—This gentleman married a sister of the present amiable Lord Walpole, and was frequently in Norfolk. He took young Nelson, at twelve years of age, from North Walsham school, in the same county, and entered him, under himself, as midshipman on board his own ship. Here his lordship served some time, together with the *valuable* officer

who now commands her, Captain Charles Boyles, his friend and neighbour; and from this ship the two young men removed into the *Triumph*, when Captain Suckling obtained the command of her. June 4th, 1773, he embarked under the command of the Hon. Captain Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, on a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole, which added greatly to his stock of knowledge. April the 10th, 1777, his lordship was made lieutenant, and sent out by his uncle, Captain Suckling, to Sir Peter Parker, who then commanded on the Jamaica station. Shortly after this, young Nelson was appointed master and commander. On the 11th of June, 1779, he became post captain; and, at the conclusion of the American war, returned home. But he did not long continue inactive. Soon after his return, he was sent out in the *Boreas* frigate to the Leeward Islands, and had under him his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, who commanded the *Pegasus*.

On this station, his lordship is said to have rendered a signal service to his highness, for which he afterwards honoured him with his friendship. It was also upon this station, and, we believe, about this time, that Lord Nelson contracted a matrimonial alliance, with Mrs. Nesbit of Nevis, widow of Dr. Nesbit, physician, and niece to the governor of the island; and when the marriage ceremony was celebrated, it is said that his royal highness gave away the bride. And here it would be unpardonable

not

not to mention a report which does honour to the admiral's integrity, and nice sense of honour. Mr. Herbert, governor of the island, was extremely rich, and had an only daughter, who was to have inherited her father's fortunes. By marrying, however, without his consent, she disobliged him, and was on the point of being disinherited in favour of his niece. The admiral, with a generous disregard to private interest, interfered in this business, and had the pleasure, before his marriage, of restoring the daughter to her parent's affection, and the fortune to its natural channel.

Whilst his lordship continued upon this station, he had under him a small squadron of frigates, and was particularly active in suppressing smuggling, a practice but too prevalent in those seas. This vigilance was acceptable to all parties, *except the smugglers and their friends*; who threatened, and would actually have involved him in expensive litigations, had not the admiralty interfered to rescue him from their malice.

In a profession like the sea service, calculated to make heroes, by enuring the mind to difficulty, and enterprize, it would be unjust to extol the merits of one character, at the expence of others equally deserving: yet the praise which is appropriate, cannot fairly be withheld.—The triumph of that glorious day, when Earl St. Vincent, with a far inferior force, beat the Spanish fleet off cape St. Vincent, and captured four of their large ships, will not easily be forgotten by Englishmen: and of
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that triumph, no inconsiderable share belongs to Nelson*.—The San Joseph and the San Nicholas, both vessels of superior force, struck to him; the former of which he entered sword in hand, with a degree of courage, amounting almost to enthusiasm. He presented the sword of the Spanish Admiral, which he received upon the quarter-deck, and which the Spaniard refused to deliver to any but himself, to the corporation of Norwich; as he has done, lately, that of the French Admiral, Mons. Blanquet, to the corporation of London.—In consequence of the action off cape St. Vincent, his lordship was created Knight of the Bath, and, about the same time, Rear Admiral of the blue.

Upon quitting the West Indies, he returned to his native country; and as there was no immediate call for his services, retired, with Lady Nelson, to the parsonage-house at Burnham; which his father gave up to him, preferring a residence in the neighbourhood. In this retreat his lordship, for some time, led a quiet, domestic life; inclined, like Gil Blas, at Llyrias, to write over the door of his cottage;

“ Inveni portum. Spes & fortuna valet

“ Sat me lufistes: ludite nunc alios:”

and, like him, also determined to return into the world, when more active scenes demanded his attendance.

* The action was fought Feb. 14th, 1797.—The British force consisted of fifteen sail of the line; the Spanish of twenty-seven, mostly of superior rates.

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The admiral has no family by his lady. But there is a son of Lady Nelson, by a former marriage (Mr. Nesbit), who has served under his lordship, through the whole of the present war, and is now a post-captain. Exclusive of his wife, and her son, Lord Nelson has now living, of his near relations—first, his father, who resides near Ipswich; next, his eldest brother, Maurice, a clerk in the navy-office; two brothers, clergymen; the first, William, rector of Hilborough, and Suckling, rector of Burnham-Sutton; also two sisters, both of whom are married.

Upon the breaking out of the present war, his lordship was immediately appointed to the command of the *Agamemnon*, of sixty-four guns; although it has been said, that he had some difficulty in getting a ship. Of this ship's company, a considerable part was raised in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and, not a few, in his own neighbourhood. The general opinion of his conduct and abilities, as an officer, was such, that gentlemen were desirous to place their sons under his command; and some, of considerable respectability, solicited and obtained this favour. In particular, the Rev. Mr. Bolton, his relation; and the Rev. Messrs. Hoste, and Wetherhead, his friends, were permitted to enter their sons midshipmen on board the *Agamemnon*.—And, it must be admitted, that if they wished to give their sons an insight into their profession, founded upon practice and example, they could not have selected a fitter master.—Young Wetherhead fell nobly at
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the unfortunate business of Santa Cruz: the others continue with his lordship, and have merited his esteem.

From the commencement of the war, to the present moment, the public are in possession of the general outlines of Lord Nelson's life.—During a considerable part of the time he commanded the *Agamemnon* in the Mediterranean, scarcely a Gazette appeared, but it contained an account of some service performed;—some gallantry displayed;—some enterprize undertaken*.—If a merchantman was to be cut out of harbour, or a battery to be dismounted, his lordship generally placed himself in “the hottest battle,” and exposed his person to the same risk as the meanest seaman.—Such voluntary contempt of danger, although it be not always either prudent, or justifiable, in a commander, is yet certainly generous, and often successful.—Men will do more, and with greater alacrity, when they find that nothing is required on one hand, but what, with a due allowance for circumstances, is submitted to on the other: and, great advantages will justify great hazard†.

In estimating the services of Lord Nelson, it is not an individual achievement that we admire; in

* At the siege of Bastia in 1794, he commanded a battery on shore, and lost an eye on the occasion.

† Extreme prudence will make men *safe*, but it will never make them *great*.—Alexander, Cæsar, Pompey, and Mark Anthony, were frequently forced to hazard much; and often in a bad cause.

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which, perhaps, good fortune had, at least, as much share, as good conduct: but it is a series of successes, for the most part, planned with judgment, and executed with spirit. "Some men, says Lord Bacon, *follow* Fortune, others *lead* her."* The Admiral appears to adopt the last plan: and acts wisely: because Fortune is *blind*, and wants a guide.

The glorious battle of the Nile, for which Nelson has recently been rewarded with a peerage, has already been so minutely described, that it is superfluous to enlarge upon the subject. It will stand upon record, as a convincing proof of what British sailors, commanded by able officers, can effect, in hazardous enterprizes. The modesty and good sense of the Admiral, in describing this action, cannot be too much commended.—In the splendor of a great victory, our eyes are too apt to be turned upon the Hero of the piece, without considering the subordinate characters that have contributed to the drama. Upon this basis the main foundation of tragic, and epic poetry, rests: the poet draws off our attention from the fortunes of the vulgar, to

* The following extract has been communicated from the journal of an ingenious friend, and we insert it, because it serves to shew, that the Admiral is not a *mere* favourite of Fortune: but that he has always been a man of conduct, as well as of enterprize.

———"Fort San Juan, on the Spanish main, surrendered to the British arms, April, 1780. The detachment on the service was commanded by Capt. Polson, of the sixtieth regiment, who gives great praise to Capt. *Nelson* of the Hinchinbroke frigate, who was with him on this service."

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the fate of the great : “ *Arma virumque cano,*” &c. This disposition, however, or rather this weakness, the Admiral has endeavoured to correct in his own person by the impartial, and judicious praises he bestows upon every individual of his fleet, in his letter of the 3d of August, 1798, to the commander-in-chief, giving an account of the engagement.

But it is not in the conduct of a fleet *alone*, or in the liberality with which he approves, that Lord Nelson is seen to advantage. There appears to be something of the statesman in him, as well as of the commander. After the battle of the Nile, he did that,—which Pompey after the battle of Dirrachium, and the Christian confederates after that of Lepanto, omitted to do ; and suffered for their omission :—he made the best use of his victory. The British Government in India, had taken the alarm at the progress of the French in the Mediterranean. Immediately after the action, the Admiral dispatched a messenger over land to Bombay with intelligence of the victory. He also communicated the news to the principal Cabinets of the Continent, and revived their drooping spirits. He left Commodore Trowbridge, upon the coast of Egypt, with six sail of the line, to burn the enemy’s transports, and to intercept their succours ;—and he took possession of an island in the enemy’s van, fortified with mortars and cannon, which had considerably annoyed his fleet in action.

The celebrity which Lord Nelson has acquired
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by his services, has added another laurel to the honours of a country already distinguished for the eminent characters it has given to the state. We are told, in the history of Norfolk, that at the little village of Cockthorpe, not far from Burnham, three seamen of immortal fame were born:—namely, Sir John Narborough, Sir Cloudefley Shovel, and Sir Christopher Mims.

When men have raised themselves, by their abilities, to any unexpected elevation in the order of society, we naturally enquire,—what have been their habits in domestic life?—For, though the *great* man may be seen in the bustle of the world, it has truly been observed, that the *good* man is best seen in private. Piety, or a just sense of the superintending providence of Almighty God, that virtue of the mind, without which all others are but “as dust and ashes,”—has considerable influence on Lord Nelson’s mind. This may be collected, as well from the general habits of his life, as from the instructions issued to his fleet, immediately after the battle of Aboukir. These instructions we shall beg leave to transcribe from the ingenious publication of an officer of the squadron. They run thus—

“ MEM.

“ *Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile,*
2d day of August, 1798.

“ Almighty God having blessed his Majesty’s arms with victory, the Admiral intends returning public thanksgiving for the same at two o’clock this day, and he recommends every ship doing the same as soon as convenient.

“ To the respective Captains of the Squadron.”

“ At

“ At two o’clock, accordingly, on that day, public service was performed on the quarter-deck of the *Vanguard*, by the Rev. Mr. Comyn, the other ships following the example of the Admiral, though, perhaps, not all at the same time. This solemn act of gratitude to Heaven seemed to make a very deep impression upon several of the prisoners, both officers and men; some of the former of whom remarked,—that it was no wonder we could preserve such order and discipline, when we could impress the minds of our men, with such sentiments after a victory so great, and at a moment of such seeming confusion.

“ On the same day, the following memorandum was issued to all the ships, expressive of the Admiral’s sentiments of the noble exertions of the different officers and men of his squadron.

“ Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile, 2d of August, 1798.

“ The Admiral most heartily congratulates the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Marines, of the squadron he has the honour to command, on the event of the late action; and he desires they will accept his most sincere and cordial thanks for their very gallant behaviour in this glorious battle. It must strike forcibly every British seaman, how superior their conduct is, when in discipline and good order, to the riotous behaviour of lawless Frenchmen. The squadron may be assured the Admiral will not fail, in his dispatches, to represent their truly meritorious conduct in the strongest terms to the Commander-in-chief.”

“ To the Captains of the ships of the squadron.”

We here see what the Admiral’s sentiments of duty were, as an officer, and a public character: we will next consider what they were as a private man. In the domestic relations of life, his conduct appears to have been entirely unexceptionable. His tenderness, and affection, for his wife, are beyond

yond dispute; and his attention to his father was always remarkable. The old gentleman had a practice, when the weather permitted, of walking for an hour before dinner: the Admiral, however engaged, scarcely ever failed attending upon these occasions.

When, after the unfortunate attempt on Santa Cruz, his Lordship lay ill, in consequence of the amputation of his right arm*, and it was still uncertain what the event might be, it is said, that his principal anxiety was about his relations, rather than himself; and that he wrote to the Admiralty with his left hand, recommending Mr. Nesbit to their patronage, in case he died.

Nor is his attachment to relations stronger than his regard for strangers in distress†. He appears to entertain a just sense of benevolence, in its various branches: particular instances of which might readily be adduced, did the limits of this article permit. His feelings of private friendship are warm, and quick; so warm indeed, that he has been known to shed tears, at meeting an old friend unexpectedly, upon returning from a distant climate. To some, these circumstances may possibly appear

* When Lord Nelson received the wound that shattered his right arm, he was in a boat, and held a sword that had been given him by his uncle, Captain Suckling, which he prized highly. Upon this occasion, he had the good fortune to save it from falling into the water, by catching it with his left hand. This circumstance is said to have given him peculiar pleasure.

† The noble Admiral, last winter, sent down a large collection of blankets to his native village, to be distributed among the poor.

trivial and inconsistent with the dignity of history ; while to others, no less discerning, they will assuredly be interesting ; because they display feelings inseparable from true magnanimity ; and, give the best insight into a great character.

AUSONIUS.

LORD MONBODDO.

JAMES BURNET, Lord Monboddo, is a descendant from an ancient family in the shire of Kincardine. He received his education at a Scottish university, at a time when an undistinguishing enthusiasm for all that bore the name of the classical literature of Greece and Rome, was much more predominant than it is at present, in Scotland. Choosing to embrace the profession of a lawyer ; he passed, successfully, through the ordinary course of preliminary, juridical studies ; and was, in due time, received a Member of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh.

From early youth, his application to his literary and juridical studies, was severely diligent. Between classical literature and the law of Scotland, there exists a strong connexion, arising from the adoption of the forms and maxims of the civil law of the Romans, into the authority almost of another Law of Nature, by the ancient legislators and judges of the Scots. Accordingly, while Mr. Burnet rose into reputation, as a lawyer ; he, at the same time,

time, improved into profound erudition, that knowledge of the Greek and Roman Authors, which he had acquired at the school and the university. By the more intimate study of these authors, his first predilection and reverence for them, were continually enhanced. He learned, as *a man of taste*, to regard the philosophy and eloquence of Plato, of Aristotle, of Demosthenes, with the same veneration with which he had accustomed himself, as *a lawyer*, to view the Code of Theodosius or the Institute of Justinian. While his enthusiastic admiration of the literature of Antiquity, increased; his opinion of the degeneracy and comparative meanness of all that was modern, proceeded, by degrees, to supreme contempt, and unutterable disgust.

Nor was this progress of his literary partialities, in any way, strange or unaccountable. Those books, from which he formed his judgement of the excellence of the literature of antiquity, were certainly among the most perfect productions of human genius. But, they were commentators, and verbal critics, and reporters in the Scottish law, and crabbed theologians, and monkish historians, and scholastic metaphysicians, who, at that time, composed the assemblage of his literary acquaintance among the writers of modern times. His prepossessions were therefore immoveably rooted, before he had been led to give to the best and most captivating advocates for the moderns, a fair hearing.

In the mean time, the progress of his professional

life advanced him to share those higher honours and emoluments which are accessible to the Scottish Advocate. His family was respectable. He enjoyed a small patrimonial estate, and some share of political interest. He was esteemed as a lawyer. He was honoured as a man of incorruptible integrity, utterly incapable of permitting any other consideration to prevail, in his breast, over the sacred regard ever due to justice. In the year 1767, he obtained a Judges' seat, on the bench of the Scottish Court of Session. During those many years which have, since, elapsed, he has continued to discharge the duties of that high office, with an assiduity, a patience, a clear intelligence, and an uprightness, which do honour even to justice herself.

Of the truth of this praise, we may mention one striking proof. The *Court of Session* is the highest Court known in Scotland, for decision in *civil* causes. Every suit or litigation, may be brought before this court, by appeal from the inferior judicatures: And there are few actions too petty, to be prosecuted before it, even in the first instance. The business of the court, is, in consequence, almost too great and multifarious to be regularly dispatched without an inconsiderate haste, by which the ends of justice might be defeated. On this account, it is a rule, for at least one of the judges, under the title of LORD ORDINARY, to sit alone, in an outer chamber, on the usual days of business, for the purpose of hearing and determining in all causes at their first introduction into this court: Nor is it, till
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after *three* successive sentences, or *inter locutors*, shall have been pronounced in it by the *Lord Ordinary*, and still without satisfying one or another of the parties, that a cause may be, at last argued before the whole court of session. Very much of the most laborious business of the court, is, therefore, transacted by the judges, acting successively in the capacity of *Lord Ordinary*. The lawyers and their clients are exceedingly anxious, in every fair and honestly-intended suit, to bring it before one of the judges as *Lord Ordinary*, who is the most upright, the most patient, the most conscientiously assiduous; who is the most profound as a lawyer, and possesses the most of that strong sense and vigorous discernment, which are the best qualities for disentangling right and expediency from whatever perplexities they may be involved in.—Now, ever since *Lord Monboddó* was raised to the bench, there has been a remarkable solicitude among the practising lawyers and their clients, to commence their actions at law before him, as *Lord Ordinary*, in preference to almost any other of his brother-judges. A more striking proof of respect for the abilities, the integrity, and the faithful diligence of a judge, could not be easily produced.

In the mean time, the course of his studies led him to attempt the composition of a work, which might raise his name to distinction among men of Letters. This was just the period when Scotsmen began to think, that, notwithstanding the barbarous incorrectness of their native dialect, they might as-

pire, with fair hopes, to eminence, in English literature. *Elegance! elegance! elegance!* was the general cry. The *Latin* was discarded from being the language of the *Lectures* in the universities. Classical erudition and profound research were conceived to be utterly incompatible with the power of happy composition in a modern language: What was called *Fine Writing*; and an originality of philosophical genius, to be displayed in the proposition and the defence of paradoxes; were esteemed to be the only things, to which the praise of literary or scientific excellence, could be justly due: It was by the imitation of the most elaborately finished productions of French philosophy and eloquence, that the Scots hoped to rival the best writings of their English neighbours. David Hume, Lord Kaimes, Dr. William Robertson, James Macpherson, Dr. Adam Ferguson, Gilbert Stuart, even Adam Smith, were all of one school, of which these were the literary principles. To be a profound scholar in the recondite parts of Greek and Roman literature, was supposed a qualification which none but a dull man would use the pains to acquire. The logic of Aristotle was exploded, as a vain gibberish; the philosophy of Plato, as the wild dreams of an enthusiast. *Montesquieu*, *Voltaire*, *Bossuet* the model of Robertson's imitation, and a few other French writers, with some favourite English ones, were fancied to have engrossed every desirable literary excellence. A mechanical elegance was, with finical anxiety, studied, which materially differed, in its forms,

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from that elegance which has been exemplified by some of the most admired writers of antiquity. Triplets, alliteration, short periods incessantly breaking the continuity of the sense, a flippancy of wit and a visible affectation of ornament little known to the ancients, maxims of business and of philosophy absolutely at war with those of antiquity, were the *dulcia vitia* which Monboddo beheld his literary contemporaries of Scotland, admire and cultivate the most passionately.

This sacrilegious contempt of the philosophy and literature of the ancients, naturally provoked the warmest indignation of Lord Monboddo, their ardent admirer. Indignation, conspiring with his former enthusiasm for antiquity, exalted that temper of mind to a pitch of the highest extravagance. All modern excellence, whether in language, in composition, in moral, or even in physical, science, appeared to him but the weakness and presumptuous folly of the human intellect dwindling down towards absolute fatuity. He resolved, that his first work should afford, to the confusion and astonishment of the moderns, a complete vindication of the wisdom and eloquence of his admired ancients. The first volumes of his *ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF LANGUAGE*, were, in consequence of this resolution, at length, given to the Public.

These volumes were perused by critics, with sentiments of mingled respect, ridicule, and indignation. With the philosophical history of language, his plan necessarily involved that of

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civility and knowledge. He carried his researches to a time remote beyond the records of history, when men might be supposed to possess no means of the vocal communication of their thoughts, but natural and inarticulate sounds. Abstracting, in imagination, from the rational superiority of *Man*, whatever seems to depend on his use of artificial language, as a sign of thought ; he represented the earlier generations of the human race, as having been little, if at all, exalted in intelligence, above the ape and the *Ouran-Outang*, whose form bears a resemblance to the human. The spirit of paradox, or something better, even inclined him to believe, that those rude men who wanted articulate language, must have had tails ; of which they might gradually divest themselves, either by attentions to the breed, like those of a *Cully*, or a *Bakerwell*,—or by continually *docking*, till the tail was utterly extirpated, even in the progeny. With Rousseau, he viewed, with envy, many of the advantages of savage life. Tracing, more slightly, the progress of language in the East,—and the origin of alphabetical writing from the continual abbreviation of the Hieroglyphics of Egypt, as it had been explained by Warburton ; he eagerly advanced to the analysis and history of the language of the ancient Greeks. So perfect in all the excellencies of speech, did this language appear to him ; that he could not conceive it to have been produced by the gradual uses of social life ; but supposed it to have been a grand system, formed by the consenting labours of philosophers.

phers. Its confusion of dialects; its anomalous modes and tenses; all the irregularities in the structure of many of its verbs; appeared to be only so many perfections of order and beauty. As there must be a relation between the outline of the body, and the clothes which are becomingly fitted upon it; as there is a necessary connexion between speech and the thoughts which are conveyed in it; so Lord Monboddo, the more he contemplated the language of Grecian eloquence and science, was so much the more moved to admire all the knowledge of which it had been made the vehicle, as the consummate perfection of human wisdom. The philosophy of Plato and of Aristotle, dwelling among those primary ideas of which human things were but the faint, imperfect resemblances, appeared to him to exhibit the *meditations of Gods*: The philosophy of a Bacon, a Newton, and the rest of the moderns, trifling among the phænomena of material nature, seemed, as it were, but the *play*, or the silly *conjectures*, of so many *children*. The periods of a mile, the particles whose import might elude the discovery of the most expert grammarians, *connectives* exceeding the number of the *substantives* and *attributives* with which they were associated, the endless involution of sentence within sentence, and whatever other forms in composition, familiar to the ancient Greeks, had begun to be rejected by his contemporaries,—these Lord Monboddo fondly praised, and strove to imitate, as the essential ingredients of literary elegance. The peculiarities of modern eloquence,
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he condemned, as so many wretched barbarisms. Allying himself, in the enthusiasm of his heated imagination, more with the ancients whom he loved and admired, than with the moderns among whom he was fated to live; he treated every thing in which these last were concerned, with a haughty contempt, which might seem to imply an overweening preference of himself to all his contemporaries.

Those critics who were partial to modern literature, on account of their ignorance of that of antiquity; or who, though not unacquainted with the more popular of the ancient authors, were, however, strangers to the deeper mysteries of Greek erudition; condemned Lord Monboddo's work, with bitter and contemptuous censure. The Scottish literati, almost to a man, declared it to be unworthy of perusal, with any other view, than to be amused by its ridiculous absurdity. *Gilbert Stuart*, full of the arrogant confidence of youthful genius; and, in writing, fond of all those peculiarities of the moderns, which Lord Monboddo had the most zealously reprobated; attacked his book, in a Review that was then published at Edinburgh, with all the fierce malignity of a Portuguese inquisitor enjoying the sufferings of a detected Jew; or of an American savage putting his captive to death, amidst every refinement of torture. It was, in general, agreed to regard Monboddo's learning as pedantic; his taste as gross and fantastic; his style of writing, as uncouth and barbarous; his speculations as unphilosophical.

phical. Nothing, it was said, but the strange absurdity of his opinions, could have hindered his book from falling dead-born from the press.

In England, however, its reception was somewhat less unpropitious to the author's hopes. Here, the influence of the plan of education at the Free Schools, and particularly in the University of Oxford, still maintained a fond reverence for classical literature, and for whatever was allied to it. The author of the *Origin and Progress of Language* seemed a true scholar of the English school. For the sake of his erudition, his classical enthusiasm, and his partiality for the old English writers, in preference to the French, many of the blemishes and peculiarities of his book, were to find a ready pardon. Had he not sacrilegiously presumed to arraign the merits of a Bacon and a Newton; he might, perhaps, have attained, for a time, to the rank of a favourite among the English. In the late Mr. Harris, of Malmesbury, he found an admirer and literary friend, who was himself deeply versant in Grecian learning and philosophy, and was exceedingly delighted to meet with one that had cultivated these studies with equal ardour, and worshipped the excellence of the ancient Greeks, as far above all other excellence. At Oxford, indeed, upon a visit which Lord Monboddo paid to that famous university; while he, for the credit of his erudition, endeavoured to converse in Latin; he committed some unlucky blunders, in pronunciation and *syllabic* quantity; which are said to have quite
astonished

astonished the Oxford-men, and to have considerably lowered the high opinion they had, before, conceived of his classical erudition.

Lord Monboddo heard all the opinions of the critics, with much the same temper, with which a French beau of the old court, might hear any remarks upon his personal appearance and accomplishments. Every sentiment of disapprobation that was uttered against him, he attributed to ignorance, to tastelessness, to the degeneracy of the literature of the age, or to some worse quality in the mind of the critic. But, for every expression of applause or esteem, with which his book was honoured, he thanked his own talents, taste, and profound philosophical erudition, which, wherever they were judged before a competent tribunal, must, of necessity, command unbounded approbation. If revenge could gratify the heart of a grammarian and a philosopher, he had soon an opportunity to see ample vengeance inflicted on *Gilbert Stuart* and his Review. A prosecution for scandal being, by certain persons, secretly excited against the proprietors of the Review, on account of an article, that had appeared in it; the publishers were condemned to pay costs and damages to the prosecutor; and were so discouraged, that they resolved to abandon the publication. On the bench, when this cause was tried, Lord Monboddo could not help betraying so much of an offended author's foreness of feelings; as to declare, how much those reviewers had abused himself; and to express

express his earnest satisfaction in assisting to make them the subjects of a sentence, by which the malignant asperity of their criticism would be punished, and probably repressed. He had, also, the pleasure to know, that his book obtained a reasonable sale, and that its fame served considerably to increase his personal celebrity. His enemies, indeed, pleased themselves with ascribing this sale of the book, and this growing celebrity of the author, not to any genuine merits in the one or the other, but to the odd absurdity of his opinions, and to a fantastic singularity in his habits of life, arising from them.

His private life was spent in the practice of all the social virtues, and in the enjoyment of much domestic felicity. He had married Miss *Farquharson*, a very amiable woman, by whom he had a son and two daughters. Although rigidly temperate in his habits of life, he, however, delighted much in the convivial society of his friends: And among these he could number almost all the most eminent of those who were distinguished in Scotland for virtue, literature, or genuine elegance of conversation and manners. One of those who esteemed him the most highly, was the late Lord *Gardenstone*; a man who, though his propensities to sensual pleasure, and his habits of dissipation, were very different from the sanctity of the manners of Monboddo; possessed, however, no mean portion of the same overflowing benignity of disposition, the same unimpeachable

impeachable integrity as a judge, the same partial fondness for literature and for the fine arts. His son, a very promising boy, in whose education he took great delight, was, indeed, snatched away from his affections by a premature death: But, when it was too late for sorrow and anxiety to avail, the afflicted father stifled the emotions of nature in his breast, and wound up the energies of his soul to the firmest tone of Stoical fortitude. He was, in like manner, bereaved of his excellent lady, the object of his dearest tenderness: and he endured the loss with a similar firmness, fitted to do honour either to philosophy or to religion.

In addition to his office, as a judge in the supreme Civil Court, in Scotland; an offer was made to him of a seat in the Court of Justiciary, the supreme criminal court. But, though the emoluments of this place would have made a convenient addition to his income, he refused to accept it; lest its business should too much detach him from the pursuit of his favourite studies. His patrimonial estate was small; not affording a revenue of more than three hundred pounds a year. Yet, he would not raise the rents; would never dismiss a poor old tenant, for the sake of any augmentation of emolument offered by a richer stranger; and, indeed, shewed no particular solicitude to accomplish any improvement upon his lands,—save that of having the number of persons who should reside upon them, as tenants, and be there sustained by their produce,—to be, if possible, superior to
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the population of any equal portion of the lands of his neighbours.

The vacations of the Court of Session, afforded him leisure to retire every year, in Spring and in Autumn, to the country : And he used, then, to dress in a style of simplicity, as if he had been only a plain farmer ; and to live among the people upon his estate, with all the kind familiarity and attention of an aged father among his grown-up children. It was there he had the pleasure of receiving Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, with his friend James Boswell, at the time when these two gentlemen were upon their well-known journey through the Highlands of Scotland. JOHNSON admired nothing in literature, so much, as the display of a keen discrimination of human character, a just apprehension of the principles of moral action, and that vigorous common-sense which is the most happily applicable to the ordinary conduct of life. Monboddo delighted in the refinements, the subtleties, the abstractions, the affectations of literature ; and in comparison with these, despised the grossness of modern taste, and of common affairs. Johnson thought learning and science to be little valuable, except so far as they could be made subservient to the purposes of living usefully and happily with the world, upon its own terms. Monboddo's favourite science taught him to look down with contempt, upon all sublunary, and especially upon all modern, things ; and to fit life to literature and philosophy, not literature and philosophy

philosophy to life. James Boswell, therefore, in carrying Johnson to visit Monboddo, probably thought of *pitting* them one against another, as two game-cocks, and promised himself much sport from the colloquial contest which he expected to ensue between them. But Monboddo was too hospitable and courteous, to enter into keen contention with a stranger, in his own house. There was much talk between them, but no angry controversy, no exasperation of that dislike for each other's well-known peculiarities with which they had met. JOHNSON, it is true, still continued to think Lord Monboddo, what he called *a prig* in literature.

To unfold and to vindicate the principles of the Grecian philosophy, more fully than could be conveniently done in his book on the Origin and Progress of Language; Lord Monboddo engaged in the composition of a work, under the title of *Ancient Metaphysics*. His express object, in this work, was, to display the philosophy of Aristotle and of Plato, concerning those primary and general principles, which embrace alike all the subordinate divisions of human knowledge;—to the utter confusion of Hume and his followers, who had endeavoured to push the ideal philosophy into an inconceivable scepticism;—and no less of Reid and Beattie, and the other doughty opponents of Hume; who had laboured entirely to explode that philosophy, as fit only to be an engine of mischief; and had chosen rather to appeal, for the origin and the certainty
of

of all our knowledge, to the uncertain feelings, and the inaccurate unphilosophical language, of men in common life. It must, indeed, be confessed, that no philosopher of modern times, no logician, no naturalist, no botanist, no chymist, has outdone, in his arrangements, the excellence of the arrangements of Aristotle. It must be owned, that the subtlety, and the arch simplicity, of the Socratic reasonings upon the morality and the expedencies of human action, has scarcely ever yet been equalled. It is, likewise, true, that the theories of the moderns, concerning the general principles of moral science, are, at least, as remote from genuine scientific truth, as those of the ancients; and even that the moderns have added much less than was to be expected, to the detail of the moral phenomena of social life. But, in this work of Lord Monboddo's, ancient metaphysical science appears more genuine, indeed, and less sophisticated, but almost equally uncouth and abstruse, as in the volumes of the Monkish Schoolmen. Both Monboddo and his friend Harris have too often mistaken the peculiarities of the exterior form, for the essence, of ancient philosophy. Its *bidden soul** has eluded their grasp. For the pure virgin-ore, they present to us all the impurities of the *gangue*. Their partiality to the very blemishes of that philosophy, has hindered them from discerning, and doing justice to, its genuine excellence. Mon-

* Untwisting all the chains that tie

The *bidden soul* of harmony.

MILTON.

boddo's *Ancient Metaphysics*, distinguished by almost all the same faults, and the same merits, as his book on the Origin and Progress of Language, has never become even so popular as this last work: For who would read it, but the profound scholar, who will do much better to study what it teaches, in the original writings of Plato, Aristotle, and Xenophon?

On his visits to London, Lord Monboddo met with so many more men of profound erudition, than he had opportunity to converse with, at the places of his ordinary residence; that a journey to the capital became a very favourite amusement of his periods of vacation from the business of the court to which he belonged. For a while, he accustomed himself to make this journey, once a year. A carriage, a vehicle that was not in common use among the ancients, he considered as an engine of effeminacy and sloth, which it was disgraceful for a man to make use of, in travelling. To be dragged at the tail of a horse, instead of mounting upon his back,—seemed, in his eyes, to be a truly ludicrous degradation of the genuine dignity of human nature. In all his journeys, therefore, between Edinburgh and London, he was wont to ride on horseback, with a single servant attending him. He continued this practice, without finding it too fatiguing for his strength, till he was between eighty and ninety years of age. Within these few years, on his return from a last visit, which he made of purpose to take leave, before his

his death, of all his old friends in London, he became exceedingly ill upon the road; was unable to proceed; and had he not been overtaken by a Scottish friend, who prevailed with him to travel, for the remainder of the way, in a carriage; he might, perhaps, have actually perished by the way side, or breathed his last in some dirty inn. Since that time, he has not again attempted an equestrian journey to London.

In London, his visits were exceedingly acceptable to all his friends, whether of the literary or the fashionable world. He was such an amiable humourist; oddity and whim were, in his character, so interestingly associated with learning, ingenuity, and virtue, that it was impossible not to be greatly pleased and amused with his personal appearance, his manners, and his conversation. He delighted to shew himself at Court: And the King is said to have taken a pleasure in conversing with the old man, with a distinguishing notice that could not but be very flattering to him. He used to mingle, with great satisfaction, with the learned and the ingenious, at the house of Mrs. Montague. However, after the death of his friend Mr. Harris, he found a very sensible diminution of the pleasure he had been wont to enjoy in the society of London.

A constitution of body, naturally framed to wear well and last long, was strengthened to Lord Monboddo, by exercise, guarded by temperance, and by a tenor of mind too firm to be deeply

broken in upon by those passions which consume the principles of life. In the country, he has always used much the exercises of walking in the open air, and of riding. The cold bath is a mean of preserving the health, to which he has recourse in all seasons, amid every severity of the weather, under every inconvenience of indisposition or business, with a perseverance invincible. He has been accustomed, alike in winter and in summer, to rise from bed at a very early hour in the morning, and, without loss of time, to betake himself to study or wholesome exercise. It is said, that he has even found the use of what he calls the *air-bath*, or the practice of *occasionally walking about, for some minutes, naked, in a room filled with fresh and cool air*, to be highly salutary. With some of the ancient legislators, with some savage tribes whose usages have become known to us, and with Mr. *Locke*, as that philosopher has explained his sentiments in his *Treatise on Education*; Lord Monboddo believes, that the constitution of the human body,—even when it is sickly and feeble,—but much more when it possesses a natural soundness, of some force to resist the invasion of disease,—is to be invigorated and best preserved in health,—by exposure to want, fatigue, inclemency of weather, and to all those vicissitudes of enjoyment and endurance which are usually accounted dangerous,—not by that tender care, luxurious maintenance, and anxiety of precaution, which, in this effeminate age, are so generally deemed necessary.

His

His eldest daughter became, many years since, the wife of *Kirkpatrick Williamson*, Esq. a gentleman who holds a respectable office in the Court of Session, and is universally beloved and esteemed.—His second daughter, in personal loveliness one of the finest women of the age, was beheld, in every public place, with general admiration, and was sought in marriage by many suitors. Her mind was endowed with all her father's benevolence of temper, and with all his taste for elegant literature, without any portion of his whims, or humourist prepossessions. It was her chief delight, to be the nurse and the companion of her father's declining age. It is she who is elegantly praised in one of the papers of the *MIRROR*, as rejecting the most flattering and advantageous opportunities of settlement in marriage, that she might amuse a father's loneliness, nurse the sickly infirmity of his age, and cheer him with all the tender cares of filial affection and self-denial. Her presence contributed to draw around him, in his house, and at his table, all that was truly respectable among the youth. She mingled in the world of fashion, without sharing its follies; and heard those flatteries which are there addressed to youth and beauty, without being betrayed to that light and selfish vanity which is often the only sentiment that fills the heart of the high-praised beauty. She delighted in reading, in literary conversation, in poetry, and in the fine arts, without contracting, from this taste, any of that pedantic self-conceit and affectation which

usually characterize literary ladies, and whose presence never fails to frighten away the domestic virtues, the graces, the delicacies, and all the more interesting charms of the sex. When Burns, the well-known Scottish poet, first arrived from the plough in Ayrshire, to publish his poems in Edinburgh, there were none by whom he was more zealously patronized, than by Lord Monboddo and his lovely daughter. No man's feelings were ever more powerfully or more exquisitely alive, than those of the rustic bard, to the emotions of gratitude, or to the admiration of the good and the fair. In a poem which he at that time wrote, as a panygerical address to Edinburgh, he took occasion to celebrate the beauty and excellence of Miss Burnet, in, perhaps, the finest stanza of the whole:

“ Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn,

“ Gay as the gilded summer sky,

“ Sweet as the dewy milk-white thorn,

“ Dear as the raptur'd thrill of joy !

“ Fair B—— strikes th' adoring eye ;

“ Heav'n's beauties on my fancy shine ;

“ I see the *Sire of Love* on high,

“ And own his work, indeed, divine !”

She was the ornament of the elegant society of the city in which she resided, her father's pride, and the comfort of his domestic life in his declining years. Every amiable and every noble sentiment was familiar to her heart ; every female virtue was exemplified in her life. Yet, this woman, thus lovely, thus elegant, thus wise and virtuous ; whose
life

life, for the consolation of her father, should have been prolonged till she had closed his dying eyes in peace; who, for a blessing to society, should have been spared, till she had set the same example in the discharge of the duties of a wife and a mother which she had exhibited in performing those of a daughter;—this woman was to be cut off in the flower of her age, and to leave her father bereft of the last tender tie which bound him to society and to life! She died about six years since, of a consumption, a disease that, in Scotland, proves too often fatal to the loveliest and most promising among the fair and the young. Neither his philosophy, nor the necessary torpor of the feelings of extreme old age, could hinder Lord Monboddó from being very deeply afflicted by so grievous a loss. From that time, he began to droop exceedingly in his health and spirits. His life is yet prolonged, not without the discharge of its duties, and some relish for its satisfactions. But, it is not possible, that the world can now be to him what it was before. And, though his mind may still retain much of its former strength, yet his bodily frame is now, at last, declining into extreme imbecility.

Of those persons who have been distinguished, in Scotland, for literature, among Lord Monboddó's contemporaries, many of the most amiable and elegant have been accustomed to frequent his house, to enjoy his patronage, and to listen with the respect of disciples, to his conversation. That

pious, wise, and amiable man, the late Dr. *Thomas Blacklock*,—who, under the disadvantages of blindness, from early infancy, had attained to high eminence in poetry, in music, in classical, and in ethical knowledge,—used, to the very last period of his life, to be a frequent and welcome guest at Lord Monboddo's table, and to enjoy his lordship's conversation with a very high relish. Professor *Hunter*, of the university of St. Andrews, the Editor of the *almost immaculate* ST. ANDREW'S CLASSICS,—an erudite scholar, who, to be numbered with the *Parrs*, the *Perfons*, and the *Heynes* of the age,—perhaps to be ranked at the very head of them,—wants only to be more extensively known,—was initiated in deep erudition while he acted as Lord Monboddo's secretary, was promoted to his professorship by his lordship's interest, and has ever since continued to venerate him equally as his master and his patron. The late Lord *Elliock*, also,—one of the ablest Greek scholars of the age,—who formed one of the finest libraries in Britain, which remains in the possession of his successor, Colonel *Veitch* of *Elliock*, and in selection, if not in number, might well deserve to be compared with the *Pinellian* and the *Harleian* libraries,—lived in habits of great literary and convivial intimacy with Lord Monboddo. When the eloquent and interesting DUGALD STUART first began to lecture upon *Moral Philosophy*, in the university of Edinburgh; though he found it necessary, for the sake of his students,

to notice with censure, some of Lord Monboddo's favourite opinions; yet his lordship took great pleasure in attending, as an occasional auditor, in his class-room, and in remarking the extraordinary promise of talents fitted to enlighten and adorn the age, which Mr. Stuart even then exhibited. Dr. *James Gregory*, in whose character true worth and original genius, not without a certain dash of interesting eccentricity, are combined, perhaps in as ample a proportion, as they were ever bestowed in, upon any of the sons of men,—is another of Lord Monboddo's younger friends, who still fondly cultivates the venerable old man's intimacy, and delights to cheer his declining years with frequent and respectful attentions. Mr. *Andrew Dalziel*, too, the very learned professor of Greek, in the university of Edinburgh; and who is remarkable for writing *Latin prose*, with a correctness and a delicacy unequalled among his contemporaries, at home or abroad; has long been among the favourite friends of Lord Monboddo; and takes pleasure to discuss with his lordship, in conversation, those many discoveries with which his studies, from time to time, enrich the province of erudition; and which he can communicate only by epistolary correspondence, to his illustrious friend and admirer, the celebrated *Heyne*, of Gottingen,—the Coryphæus of Greek and Roman literature among the Germans.

Lord Monboddo still continues to amuse himself
with

with his wonted studies. It is not long since he published an additional volume of his *Origin and Progress of Language*, in which he discovers all his ancient partialities to be still unchanged. He is now a very old man; and the state of his health is extremely feeble. The attentions of his worthy son-in-law, and surviving daughter, and the presence of his amiable grand-children, contribute greatly to cheer the evening of his life. Nothing but extraordinary indisposition, is allowed to detain him from the discharge of his duty in the Court of Session. He retains all his wonted charity and benignity of spirit. He is understood to have neither augmented nor impaired his paternal estate. Seldom will the world behold, again, such a compound of genius, worth, erudition, and odd enthusiastic prepossessions, as his character exhibits.

LORD VISCOUNT HOOD,

ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE.

THE spirit of the christian religion is manifestly averse to war, but notwithstanding this, certain it is, no class of the community has produced a greater number of naval and military officers than the clergy of Great Britain.

The subject of this article was born in Somersetshire, and his father was first vicar of Butleigh, in that county, and then rector of Thornecombe, in Devonshire. His place of residence and education,

tion, after he had grown up, being in a maritime situation, probably gave him a taste for a seafaring life; and his propensity to that calling being irresistible, he was stationed on the quarter deck of a man-of-war, and entered on the books as a midshipman. Happening to serve under Admiral Smith, who sat as president of the famous court-martial on the unfortunate Byng, he attained the rank of lieutenant, by his patronage, and distinguished himself, on various occasions, by his personal intrepidity: in consequence of one act of gallantry in particular, he received a wound in the hand, but happily effected his purpose, which was the most desperate an officer can be employed in—that of cutting out and capturing a vessel belonging to the enemy, by means of an armed boat.

In the beginning of the memorable contest, denominated from the period of its duration *the seven years' war*, he was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and soon after obtained the *Vestal*, a frigate of thirty-two guns. Having left Portsmouth, on the 13th of February, 1759, under Admiral Holmes, and happening to be to windward, he descried the *Bellona*, a French vessel of equal force, commanded by Count Beauhonoir, on this, Captain Hood instantly made sail *a-head*, came to close quarters, and commenced and continued an action of nearly four hours' duration, which ended in the capture of his antagonist.

On

On this occasion, he certainly had the advantage over the enemy, in what is emphatically termed a *clean ship*, just out of port, while the count's had been absent many months from Europe, and was then on her return from Martinico, which had been attacked by an English squadron, and soon after surrendered to his Majesty's arms. This, however, was considered as so gallant an action, that the famous circumnavigator, Lord Anson, then at the head of the admiralty, presented the young captain to George II. and he had the command of the *Africa* of sixty-four guns immediately conferred upon him, as a reward for his conduct.

On the peace of Paris, Captain Hood, with a crowd of other brave sea-officers, as well as the vessels they had commanded, were *laid up in ordinary*. He, however, had the good fortune to be moored in a very prosperous birth; for knowing that interest in times of tranquillity was to the full as good as merit during hostilities, and induced, no doubt, also by the still more powerful seductions of love and attachment, he had contrived, in 1753, to form a matrimonial alliance with Miss Susanna Lindzee, daughter of the Mayor of Plymouth, a gentleman who possessed great interest in the corporation. By this lady he had a son, born in the course of the succeeding year, who is now the Honorable Captain Hood, an officer not inferior to his father in point of bravery and enterprize, and who has distinguished

distinguished himself very eminently in the course of the present war, by the seaman-like conduct he displayed in escaping from the batteries of Toulon, the port of which he had entered under the idea of its being still in the possession of the English.

When the unfortunate contest took place with America, the subject of these memoirs accepted a command, and it is not a little memorable, that but one * military, and no one naval officer, seemed to think it either unconstitutional or unjust. In November, 1768, we find him on the Boston station, and it is much to his honour, that while General Gage, and many others, were deceiving the nation and the ministry, about the quiet and peaceable disposition of the inhabitants in general, and anticipating the speedy punishment of Washington, Adams, Hancock, &c. then denominated "rebels," but now recognized by recent treaties among "our good and faithful allies," he boldly and manfully told the truth, and described the colonies as in a state of ferment and dissatisfaction, not easily to be quieted.

In a short time, France, governed by the usual policy of states, and deeming this a fair opportunity, by dismembering the colonies, to lessen the strength and diminish the resources of Great Britain, determined to exert herself in behalf of

* Lord Effingham, afterwards governor of Jamaica.

America; and soon after the capture of General Burgoyne, Louis XVI. entered into a commercial treaty with that power, then aspiring to attain the independence which it had meditated and proclaimed. On this, the king of England withdrew his ambassador from Versailles, and declared war.

The dominions of France being supposed most vulnerable in the extremities, it was determined to send a powerful fleet to the West-Indies. Sir Samuel Hood, now an admiral*, and a baronet, went thither, and soon distinguished himself by his intrepidity and skill, particularly in Basse Terre road, St. Christopher's, February, 1782; when, with an inferior fleet, he foiled the Count de Grasse. That officer, who began to be celebrated, in consequence of his exploits in America, intended to make a descent on Barbadoes, the oldest of our settlements in the West-Indies; but being driven to leeward by the currents, he determined to attack St. Kitt's, at which place he had arrived with twenty-nine two-deckers; on this the English squadron, consisting of only twenty-two large ships, formed a line of battle, and manœuvred in such a manner as to entice the French admiral to quit the anchorage, which was instantly occupied by his more dexterous antagonist. Next morning, Sir Samuel was attacked by the whole French fleet, but he gave them so warm a

* He received his flag in 1780.

reception, that they were soon obliged to sheer off*. Notwithstanding this service, and the prediction of the English commander respecting the defence of Brimstone Hill, St. Kitt's soon after surrendered to General Bouille, then a most enterprising commander, and now an emigrant in this country.

In the important victory of the 12th of April, of the same year, which would have been still more memorable in the annals of Great Britain, had it not been eclipsed by the brilliant achievements of a more recent period, we find Admiral Hood acting as second in command; and it is thus that Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. commander-in-chief, speaks of his services in his dispatches, dated Formidable, April 14th, 1782.

“ It has pleased God, out of his divine providence, to grant
 “ to his majesty's arms a most complete victory over the fleets
 “ of his enemies, commanded by Count de Grasse, who is
 “ himself captured, with the Ville de Paris, and four other ships,
 “ besides one sunk in the action.

“ Both fleets have greatly suffered; but it is with the highest
 “ satisfaction I can assure their lordships, that though the
 “ masts, sails, rigging, and hulls of the British fleet are da-
 “ maged, yet the loss of men has been small, considering the
 “ length of the battle, and the close action they so long sustain-
 “ ed,

* “ Many of the French ships must have suffered very con-
 “ siderably, and the Ville de Paris was upon the heel all the
 “ next day, covering her shot-holes. By information from
 “ the shore, the French ships have sent to St. Eustatius up-
 “ wards of 1000 wounded men.”

*Extract of a letter from Sir S. Hood, Bart. to Mr. Stephens
 of the Admiralty.*

“ed, and in which both fleets looked upon the honour of their
 “king and country to be most essentially concerned. The
 “great supply of naval stores lately arrived in the West-
 “Indies, will, I flatter myself, soon repair all the damages his
 “majesty’s fleet has sustained.

“*The gallant behaviour of the officers and men of the fleet I have
 “the honour to command, has been such as must for ever endear them
 “to all the lovers of their king and country. The noble behaviour
 “of my second in command, SIR SAMUEL HOOD, Bart. * who in
 “both actions most conspicuously exerted himself, demands my warm-
 “est encomiums. My third in command, Rear Admiral Drake, who
 “with his division led the battle on the 12th, deserves the highest
 “praise, &c.*

Immediately after the engagement, Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, to whom the French Admiral had struck his colours, was dispatched by Sir George to the Mona Passage, in order to intercept such of the enemy’s squadron as might endeavour to escape in that direction. In consequence of this, he captured two line-of-battle ships, and two frigates, on the 9th of April, 1782, with the loss of only six killed and fourteen wounded; and on the commander-in-chief’s repairing to Port-Royal harbour, in Jamaica, with the enemy’s ships, and such of his own squadron as were crip-

Sir Samuel, on this occasion, led the van division, consisting of the Royal Oak, Alfred, Montague, Yarmouth, Valiant, Barfleur, Monarch, Warrior, Belliqueux, Centaur, Magnificent; and William. He himself was stationed on board the Barfleur of 90 guns; his own captain was Knight; the other captains were Burnett, who led the whole on the star-board tack, and Bayne, Bowen, Parry, Goodall, Reynolds, Wallace (Sir James), Sutherland, Inglefield, Linzee, and Wilson.

pled;

pled, he left his second, with all the men-of-war capable of keeping the sea, amounting to about twenty-five sail of the line, off Cape François, in St. Domingo, with a view to watch the enemy's motions, and prevent any further hostile movements on their part.

The peace, that soon after ensued, once more interrupted the professional exertions of Admiral Hood; he was now decorated, however, with Irish honours, and launched by the ministry on the ocean of politics. Sir George Rodney having been created an English baron, a vacancy for Westminster ensued, and it was fondly hoped that the tide of popularity would set in so strong in that city, which is the usual residence of royalty, that Lord Hood would be returned without difficulty; this, however, proved fallacious, and his son experienced the mortification of being obliged to withdraw his father's name.

At the dissolution of parliament, in 1784, the conduct of the coalition ministry had so thoroughly disgusted the nation, that his lordship once more started, and that too under more fortunate auspices; for we find that during the memorable struggle, in which Sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox were rival candidates, the name of the gallant admiral stood at the head of the poll. In 1788 he vacated, on being appointed a Lord of the admiralty, and lost his election against Lord John Townshend: however, in 1790, he recovered his seat for that city.

In the succeeding parliament he also represented the same constituents; but they were so disappointed in respect to his exertions, and so thoroughly disgusted with his attachment to the ministry, in opposition to their declared sentiments, that, at the last general election, he deemed it prudent to accept of a peerage, instead of an elective seat in parliament; and administration having thus secured him an honourable retreat, they immediately put another of their naval adherents into nomination, who, after a celebrated contest, proved finally successful.

No sooner had a war with France taken place, than the eyes of the people and the cabinet were directed towards the most able commanders in the naval service, and fixed in particular on Lord Hood. That nobleman was accordingly placed at the head of a powerful fleet, and sent to the Mediterranean. France, at this moment, was distracted by civil broils, and a grand effort was now made by the English ministry, in conjunction with the royalists of the south, to dismember the empire, or at least to destroy one of her grand naval arsenals. We accordingly find Admiral Lord Hood taking possession of Toulon, and holding it for several months. It was destined, however, that a sudden change of fortune should restore the second sea-port to the republic. Accordingly, that place being invested, General O'Hara, the governor, who had made a *sortie*, was unfortunately wounded,

wounded, and taken prisoner; and Lord Hood's dispatch from on board the *Victory*, announcing this event, was blamed for being less delicate than the occasion required. Soon after this the troops under General Dugommier stormed and took the heights, and such was the resolution of the besieging army, and the conduct of Ricard, Freron, Barras, and Robespierre, jun. joined to the skill of young Buonaparte, then acting as an engineer, that the town soon ceased to be tenable.

In consequence of this event, it was at length determined to evacuate the place; and as it would have been cruel to have left such of the natives as had preferred the dominion of England to that of their own country, the men-of-war were crowded with the wretched inhabitants; and on board the *Robust* alone, although she is but a third rate, about 2,300 of them were brought off.

On this occasion, ten sail of the line in the harbour, and three sail of the line on the stocks, were destroyed,* under the directions of Sir Sid-

* Here follows a summary of the particulars of that celebrated event:

Burnt	15
Escaped the flames	8
Brought off by Lord Hood	3
Burnt at Leghorn. (<i>Le Scipio</i>)	1
Sent to Brest with refractory seamen	4
Total	<hr/> 31

N.B. The French assert that several men-of-war, supposed to have been burnt by the English, have since been equipped and sent to sea.

ney Smith, then acting as a volunteer, and three sail of the line and four frigates were carried away.

Immediately after these memorable exploits, Lord Hood quitted the outer bay of Toulon, and rendezvoused with his fleet at the Hieres, where they were lucky enough to shelter themselves during a very heavy gale of wind.

But it was not to the capture of this great arsenal, that the admiral confined his exploits. Early in the same year, he had blockaded the port of Genoa, which was loudly exclaimed against at that period, as an infringement of the law of nations, and a gross violation of the neutrality of that petty, but *then* independent, state. Our fleet in the Mediterranean also bridled the grand Duke of Tuscany, and forced him into compliances which, had it not been for his powerful family alliances, might have ended in the annihilation of his sovereignty.

In February, his lordship had also made an unsuccessful attack on the island of Corsica; from which he was obliged to desist in consequence of a violent gale of wind, which drove him to sea; and on the 29th of the same month he anchored at Porto Ferrajo. The next attempt on Corsica proved infinitely more fortunate; for that little state, which Genoa affected to denominate a kingdom, and which conferred "a barren crown" on the head of Theodore, was annexed, for a short time, to the dominions of

Great

Great Britain; but after swallowing up immense wealth, it was *happily* for the nation wrested from us by the enemy.

After performing these services, Lord Hood retired to his native land; and notwithstanding he is now in the vale of years, he is equally ready, as before, to hoist his blue jack, and command the squadrons of his country.

His majesty at all times has been eager to reward his merits. He was created a baronet when the king visited the fleet at Portsmouth, in 1783, at which time he was port-admiral there, in the room of Admiral Pye, then lately deceased; in September, in the same year, he became a baron of Ireland; and on May 28th, 1796, a viscount of Great Britain. His lady was created a peeress of Great Britain, March 27th, 1795, and his brother, Alexander-Arthur, Admiral of the White, Vice Admiral of Great Britain, a Knight of the Bath, and Baron of Great Britain, May 28th, 1796.

The heralds, in allusion to the element on which he has distinguished himself, have given him a *brace* of mermaids for supporters; and the motto

“ VENTIS SECUNDIS,”

must be allowed to be peculiarly appropriate.

GILBERT WAKEFIELD, B.A.

THIS gentleman boasts a name well known in the annals of classical literature ; it is also intimately connected with the questions that have lately agitated the minds of the THINKING part of the community, on the subject of religion ; nor has it been unaccompanied by celebrity in the field of political controversy. Respecting such a person, the opinions of his fellow-citizens will be as various, perhaps, as their principles. Our judgment, too often, *cameleon-like*, borrows its decisions from the hue of party ; and, unfortunately, we are never less candid, than when political and religious enmities warp around, and pervert the mind from its natural bias towards justice.

An outline of Mr. Wakefield's life has already been laid before the public by himself *, and from it we learn, " that he was introduced into this planet on February 22d, 1756, in the parsonage-house of St. Nicholas, in Nottingham, of which church his father was then rector." It appears that his paternal grandmother claimed her descent both from the Russell family, the illustrious head of which, in the reign of the second Charles, bled for the cause of freedom ; and that great lawyer, Sir Edward Coke, the latter part of whose life was devoted to the

* " Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield, B.A." 1 vol. 8vo. 1792.

liberties of his country. With such progenitors, added to a spirit of liberal enquiry, it is but little wonder that he should dare to think for himself, and become a stickler for the popular cause!

On his origin, however, Mr. W. does not seem to plume himself:

“Malo pater tibi sit Therfites, dummodò tu sis

“Æacidæ similis, Vulcaniaque arma capeffas;

“Therfitæ similem quàm te producat Achilles.”

“Give me Therfites’ son, who bravely wields

“Vulcanian armour in embattled fields,

“Before Therfites of Achilles’ line,

“Degenerate offspring of a fire divine!”

From his earliest infancy, the subject of these memoirs appears to have evinced a disposition of mind uncommonly grave and serious. In addition to this, he displayed an ardent thirst for knowledge, seldom equalled, perhaps never surpassed in any human bosom; and what is truly wonderful, it has always continued unimpaired to this hour. At the age of three years and three months, when he went to the school of an ancient female, still in existence, he could spell the longest words, repeat his catechism without hesitation, and read the gospels with fluency;—for this early proficiency, he was indebted to the attention of a kind mother. During the following Whitsuntide holidays, and at Christmas in the same year, he displayed a memory equally precocious.

When he had attained his seventh year, he was initiated in the Latin language, at the free-school of Nottingham, under the Rev. Dr. Samuel Beardmore,

afterwards master of the Charter-house ; but to this respectable scholar and gentleman, whom he characterises “ as an acrimonious divine,” he disavows any obligations whatever, and, after a lapse of thirty years, he still recollects his threats.

At the age of nine he was removed to Wilford, near Nottingham, then under the direction of a preceptor of different character, a man of unparalleled simplicity of manners ; he erred, however, in being “ righteous overmuch,” for he subjected the pupils to a rigorous confinement, of no less than thirteen hours daily ; with the intermission of only one hundred and twenty minutes, for breakfast and dinner. This practice is unfavourable to health, and militates against the salutary maxim of the Roman poet :

“ Et puer es ; nec te quicquam, nisi ludere, oportet ;

“ Lude ; decent annos mollia regna tuos.”

On the elder Mr. Wakefield's promotion to the vicarage of Kingston, he was removed from restraints too irksome, even for a boy of his application, and placed under his father's curate. There, again, he was unfortunate, for his new preceptor proved to be one of those “ pedagogical Jehus,” satirised by a great English* divine ; and, indeed, it is not a little remarkable, when the importance of the subject is considered, how few are qualified for

* See the discourse on “ Education” (in his printed sermons, 6 vol. 8vo.), by Dr. Robert South, public orator of the university of Oxford, prebendary of Westminster, &c. &c. an able man, and a great time-server, but who in those could not get a bishoprick !

the task of instruction, and how careless parents in general are, respecting the choice of those who are to form the infant minds of their offspring.

At the age of thirteen, Mr. Wakefield, at length, found in the person of the Rev. Richard Wooddison, father of the present Vinerian professor, a preceptor better suited to his taste, at least so far as discipline was concerned. His academy seemed a kind of *hot-bed* for seedling authors ; Messrs. Steevens, Keate, Gibbon, Hayley, and Baron Maseres, being all nurtured there ; yet he himself, hardly ever published any thing, and his store of Latinity does not appear to have been great ; but he possessed a benignant temper, and although armed with a *ferula* to the *full* as awful as the sceptre of a despot, his was a gentle reign.

After tasting the streams of Greek and Roman literature at their fountain head, his parents began to think of sending him to the university, on which a studentcy in Christ-church, Oxford, was offered him ; this he *luckily* escaped, in consequence of his father's predilection for his own college ; and it still seems to afford a subject of exultation to the son, even in his riper years ; as “ orthodox theology, high church politics, and passive obedience to the powers that be, sit enthroned,” according to him, in a seminary, once “ *nutrix heroum*,” the venerable nurse of Somers, Hales, Selden, Chillingworth, and Locke.

At length he obtained a scholarship in Jesus' college, Cambridge ; and it so happened, that he
exactly

exactly suited the intention of the founder, who preferred "the son of a living clergyman, born at Nottingham," both of which conditions, as may have been observed, happened to be united in him.

As soon as he was settled at the university, Mr. W. resumed his classical studies, which had suffered a long suspension, in consequence of a putrid fore throat and fever, followed by a vacation of several months. The college lectures in algebra and logic were, however, particularly odious to him. So enamoured was he of classic ground, that it was long before he could prevail upon himself to approach the less inviting regions of science and philosophy. At last, however, he overcame his prejudices, and actually opened Euclid, "the old carpenter," as he was jocularly termed by a young man, who, like himself, had become a mathematician by compulsion.

During a five years' continuance at Cambridge, he rose by five o'clock in the morning, during both winter and summer; but notwithstanding this, which implies a severe attention to study, he was fond of society at his meals.

In the third year of his residence, he became a candidate for Dr. Browne's three medals, and accordingly produced a couple of odes in Greek and Latin, and also a pair of epigrams; the first and last exercises, according to his own opinion, were unworthy of the reward, but he thought he was hardly used respecting the Horatian ode; and had not the son of Dr. Cooke, then provost of King's,
been

been a claimant at the same time, it is highly probable, that he would have succeeded.

His academical studies had hitherto refused leisure for theological enquiries; a branch of learning, which his native seriousness of disposition, and his spirit of enquiry rendered peculiarly apposite. At last, during the long vacation of 1775, he began to cultivate Hebrew, without the aid of which, he deemed an acquaintance with the text of the new testament impossible.

On January 16th, 1776, he took his degree of B.A. with seventy-four other candidates for academical honours; and, on this occasion, he was nominated to the second post. Soon after this, (April 16th) he was elected fellow; and, in the course of the same year, he printed at the university press, a small collection of Latin poems, with a few notes on Horace, by way of appendix.

In 1777, he obtained the second of the four yearly prizes, presented by the members for the university. In 1778, he finished an exercise, at inns, &c. during a journey, which he had begun at college; this he trusted to the fidelity of a cross-country waggoner, and first learned his success through the medium of a London newspaper! He thus appears to have been *second* wrangler, *second* medallist, and *second* in the bachelor's prize for both years.

On the 22d of March, 1778, he was ordained a deacon by Dr Hinchliffe, bishop of Peterborough, in the chapel of Trinity college, at the age of
twenty-

twenty-two years and one month. It would appear, that previously to this period, the student had enquired into the nature and tendency of subscription, having since regarded his acquiescence, in this point, as the most disingenuous action of his whole life; and stigmatised some of the articles, as “unsufferably stupid, beyond the sottishness of even Hottentot divinity.”

On April 14th, Mr. W. left the university for the curacy of Stockport, in Cheshire:

He did not, however, remain long here, for we find him, soon after, with his brother at Richmond, decidedly averse to the renewal of subscription, and embarrassed at the idea of ecclesiastical functions.

It is not a little remarkable, that Mr. W. seems, on this occasion, to have been nearly in the same dilemma, in which a member of the very same university, and assuredly the greatest genius of his age, found himself about a century and a half before; for Milton thus expresses himself, without any scruple on the occasion, to a correspondent who wished him to take orders, “to which,” says he, “by the intention of my parents, and my friends, I was destined of a child, and in mine own resolutions, till coming to some maturity of years, and perceiving what tyranny had invaded the church, that he who would take orders, must subscribe slave, and take an oath withal, which, unless he took, with a conscience that could retch, he must either strait perjure or split his faith; I thought it better to prefer
a blameless

a blameless silence before the office of speaking, bought and begun with servitude and forswearing*."

Every conscientious resolution, more especially when in evident opposition to self-interest, favours of magnanimity; and such was actually the case in both instances. Shut out from church preferment by principle, Mr. W. bethought himself of a less lucrative situation, and accordingly applied for Breewood-school, in Staffordshire, which he most probably would have *obtained*, had it not been, that, even in this institution, subscription was actually necessary, as if education were indissolubly connected with the established faith!

Soon after this disappointment, he accepted a curacy at Liverpool; and having here probed the creed of his forefathers to the quick, his resolution of detaching himself altogether from the church, became daily strengthened; notwithstanding this, he continued to preach a little longer, and his discourses seem to have had such an effect, even in that place, that one merchant (wonderful to tell!) was actually persuaded, at the intercession of his wife, to sell his share in a privateer. Would to God, that he could have prevailed on all the people of this second Nineveh to have relinquished their traffic in human blood!

On March 23d, 1779, he vacated his fellowship by marriage.

* "Reason of Church Government," B. II. p. 41. edit. 1641, in 4to. See also the Hollis edition of Milton's prose works, page 6.

About the same time, he exchanged the curacy of St. Peter's for that of St. Paul's, where he had more leisure for his studies. From a humble attempt to establish a day-school, he was diverted by an offer of the tutorship of the classical department at Warrington academy, in Lancashire, whither he removed in August, 1779. In this seminary, where he seems to have lived in great cordiality with his colleagues, he commenced his theological career, as an author, by a new translation of "the first Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians," which appeared in 1781. A few months after, he published his "Essay on Inspiration;" on which subject, he seems to agree with Dr. Geddes, the learned translator of the Bible; then his treatise on "Baptism," begun and completed in nine days. Next year, his "New translation of St. Matthew," with notes, &c. made its appearance; and this was finished within the compass of a few weeks.

In addition to these labours, he cultivated his acquaintance with the original Hebrew text of the old Testament, learned the Syriac and the Chaldee, acquired the Samaritan character, read the Pentateuch therein, and the Syro Chaldaic version of it; to these were added the Æthiopic, Arabic, and Persian; lastly, he obtained a facility in the Coptic version of the New Testament, and made some improvements in the lexicon and grammar of that language. When to all this are added the daily avocations of a teacher, he must be

be allowed to have achieved more than Herculean labours!

On the dissolution of the Warrington academy, a removal took place in the autumn of 1783, to Bramcote, within four miles of Nottingham, where Mr. W. endeavoured, but in vain, to procure a few respectable pupils. In this rural retreat, he published the first volume of "An Enquiry into the Opinions of the Christian Writers of the three first Centuries, concerning the Person of Jesus Christ;" but notwithstanding the commendation of many excellent judges, he was not encouraged by the sale, to proceed with the continuation.

We find him a second time, in May, 1784, fixed at Richmond, advertising for pupils, and renewing his applications to his friends. At Michaelmas, we again hear of him in his native town of Nottingham, and there he had three or four pupils under his care for several years, on very handsome terms; and about this time, he was elected an honorary member of the Philosophical Society of Manchester, in consequence of his "Essay on the Origin of Alphabetical Characters."

In 1786, he was seized with a pain in his left shoulder, and remained ill for two years, during which period he seems to have soothed his mind by "Remarks" on Mr. Gray's poems, and a new edition of the Georgics of Virgil, accompanied with criticisms. In the beginning of 1788, he attacked Dr. Horsley, whom he designates as "not the least conceited and audacious controversialist
of

of ancient or modern days ;” and in the autumn of the same year, he let off a fly cracker against the church, under the title of “ Four Marks of Anti-christ, or a Supplement to the Warburtonian Lecture.”

The year 1789 ushered in his “ Remarks on the Internal Evidence of the Christian Religion ;” and also the first part of “ Silva Critica,” The latter, which is from the Cambridge press, was published with a view to unite theological with classical learning, and to illustrate the scriptures by light borrowed from the philology of Greece and Rome.

On the establishment of the new college at Hackney, Mr. W. was deemed a proper person to fill the office of classical instructor ; and he was at length appointed to this station, in July, 1790. His connexion, however, with the institution, was dissolved at the end of eleven months, having retired in June, 1791 : the seminary did not long survive this loss.

Towards the latter end of the same year, appeared his “ New Translation of the Testament, with Notes,” in three volumes, 8vo. ; in a few weeks after, he published his pamphlet on “ Religious Worship ;” and in March, 1792, he favoured the world with “ Memoirs of his own Life.”

After a pretty considerable interval, in 1794, appeared “ The Spirit of Christianity compared with the Spirit of the Times in Great Britain ;” this is a politico-religious pamphlet, in which the author,

thor, with a manly freedom, enquires how far the public measures of the government, in the origin and continuance of the present war, are congenial to the precepts and the spirit of the gospel. Much about the same time appeared the first volume of a new edition of "The Works of Alexander Pope, Esq. with Remarks and Illustrations." On this occasion, notwithstanding his taste for the poets of antiquity, he allows that Pope sometimes transcends even the original, particularly in the following four lines in his translation of Homer, describing the buckler of Achilles :

- " Thus the broad shield complete the artist crown'd
- " With his last hand, and pour'd the ocean round :
- " In living silver seem'd the waves to roll,
- " And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole."

" This is truly poetry to the life," added he :

- " Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn."

The same year also beheld "An Examination of the Age of Reason," in which, although Mr. W. boldly and ably defended Christianity, yet by conceding such parts of the system as were unsupportable by sound reason, and more especially by considering *national churches* not only "as hay and straw, which might be removed without any difficulty, or confusion, from the fabric of religion," but as an "incrustation which has enveloped, by gradual concretion, the diamond of christianity," he gave offence rather than satisfaction to the established clergy, who did not choose that even their

P P

faith

faith should be defended at the expence of their tythes. This was soon followed by "Remarks on the General Orders of the Duke of York;" in which, although the author still contends against the justice of the war, he is yet candid enough to allow the conduct of his Royal Highness, on this occasion, to have been great and magnanimous.

In 1795, appeared a small volume of "Poetical Translations from the Ancients," and also "A Reply to Thomas Paine's second Part of the Age of Reason;" in the latter of which the best friends of Mr. W. while they allowed his talents, lamented that he did not defend Christianity with more of its genuine spirit. The author himself dissented from the dissenters—and why could he not allow another man to dissent from him?

Persevering with unabated ardor in his career, in 1796, came forth his "Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Esq. to a noble Lord;" in which he once more exhibited himself as a dauntless champion in the field of liberty, against a man whose rapturous eloquence had formerly excited his warmest panegyrics. He also published an octavo volume of "Observations on Pope," in the course of the same year.

"A Letter to Jacob Bryant, Esq. concerning his Dissertation on the War of Troy," at length appeared; however heterodox the author might be in matters of faith, he was here a zealous oppugner of all heresies from the received classico-orthodoxical opinion. Another letter, on a very different
subject,

subject, addressed to Mr. Wilberforce, respecting his "Practical View of the prevailing religious System of professed Christianity," &c. was published in 1797. In this he exhibits the flagrant falling off in point of "vital christianity!" between the religionist and the politician, the favourer of war, and the opposer of the slave-trade. In a former publication*, he had most forcibly characterised the same gentleman, "as a politico-theological satyr, with one breath cooling the burning anguish of the African, and with another, in the same instant, blasting the spring from the year, by giving his vote to an abandoned minister, for the extirpation of half the youth of Europe, by the sword!"

Early in 1798, appeared "A Reply to some Parts of the Bishop of Landaff's Address to the People of Great Britain." This pamphlet, which exhibits much personal respect to Dr. Watson, has become a Pandora's box, and produced an infinite variety of evils; it has been even thought to commit the safety of the state. Two convictions have already taken place, on the part of the two book-sellers, neither of whom were the original publishers; and it is not a little memorable, that it appeared, on the oath of an unobjectionable witness, that one of these (a man of unimpeachable morals, and most respectable character) was igno-

* "A Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Esq. to a noble Lord."

rant of the introduction of the pamphlet in question into his shop, which happened to be brought thither on the suggestion of a servant, and was actually removed by the master, on hearing that it had been deemed libellous *.

It is but justice, however, to observe, that Mr. Wakefield came forward, on the prosecution of the original publisher †: and manfully offered to immolate himself to the resentment of the law officers of the crown:

“_____ in me convertite ferrum,

“O! Rutuli! mea fraus omnis:—nihil iste nec ausus,

“Nec potuit_____,”

This *boon* being then denied, he soon after addressed “A Letter to Sir John Scott, on the subject of a late trial in Guildhall.” On that occasion, either not finding a bookseller, who would endanger his liberty, or not wishing to bring any person but himself into jeopardy, the pamphlet was advertised to be sold at his *own house*. In this publication he complains, in language which has given great offence, that the attorney-general had wielded “the sword of the law,” with stern severity; and in reply to an extra-judicial opinion from the bench, he sets the saying of an Athenian lawgiver, in opposition to the opinion of a British judge.

* The writer of this memoir was present in court, and lamented greatly, that Mr. Erskine did not make his chief stand on the grand distinction between the agency of a servant, *civiliter*, and *criminaliter*; as the principal is implicated only in the first, and not in the second instance, which includes *libels*.

† Mr. Cuthell, who as well as the author, have been lately convicted.

Undaunted

Undaunted by the threats of prosecution * uttered in open court, and before his own face, by Sir John Scott, Mr. Wakefield, since this epoch, has been employed in a controversy with a Dr. Glasie, respecting the prison in Cold Bath fields. Certainly the spirit of our laws disclaims every idea of torture, in respect to all persons, and close imprisonment in regard to political offenders in particular. Indeed, the latter, during the reign of Charles I. became the subject of enquiry and complaint, and was at length redressed. In other days, the rumours that have gone forth, concerning this new-fangled mode of duress, would, long ere this, have become a subject of parliamentary investigation; and it is to be hoped, that even the present age is not so degenerate, if a real grievance should be found to exist, as to permit our mild, humane, and excellent code to be perverted with impunity.

Mr. Wakefield, who now awaits the sentence of the court of king's bench, resides at Hackney with his amiable family, consisting of a wife, formerly Miss Watson (niece to his quondam rector), four sons and two daughters. In person, he is about the middle size; and there is an air of primitive simplicity in his countenance, and somewhat of an *apostolic* cast about his face, arising, perhaps, in some degree, from his high and polished forehead, and the baldness of his front and temples.

In conversation he is remarkably mild and gen-

* He has since been served with an information *ex officio*, tried and convicted.

tle, and his manners are pleasing. His memory is so uncommonly tenacious, that it can retain minute facts, and even dates, after a considerable lapse of time. No man is more beloved and respected by a very extensive circle of acquaintance. His personal activity is equal to that of his mind and pen. His habits are strictly domestic and literary. He is a pattern of abstemiousness, and shares in its happy results; never partaking of strong liquors; and, from a laudable principle of humanity, totally abstaining from the use of animal food. Mr. W. must, even by his enemies if they know him personally, be pronounced to be a man whose conduct is solely actuated by principle, and an inflexible love of virtue. He may err, but his faults arise not from the depravity of his heart—they can only result from too ardent an imagination, or from the mistakes of his judgment. S.

MR. OPIE.

NEITHER the parents, nor the education, nor the fortune of this eminent artist, would have conferred on him any distinction in society, and like the English painters of the last century, he might have worked at so much by the *square yard*, had not nature conferred on him a portion of genius that soon distinguished him from the vulgar herd.

Seemingly doomed, by inevitable circumstances, to work at the bottom of a saw-pit, or on the roof
of

of a house, just as the avocations of a country carpenter required, he yet found means to emerge from that situation, and to move in a respectable sphere in life.

The late George Anderson, A.M. and accountant-general to the Board of Control, contrived by chalking a few mathematical figures on the door of his brother's barn, in which he threshed, to engage the attention of a benevolent patron, and to extricate himself from his mental bondage.

A similar accident discovered the bent of John Opie's mind, and a painted board effected for him what a chalked-gate had done for his acquaintance, as Dr. Wolcott, who had himself a taste for drawing, and lived in the neighbourhood, happened to see, and was pleased with the labours of the self-taught boy, of whom he, perhaps, exclaimed :

“NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS PUER !”

He accordingly took him under his protection, cultivated his talents, pointed his efforts, and taught him to aspire to fame and fortune. The master, with an aptitude bordering on the romantic, had transformed himself from a surgeon to a clergyman, and he now, with almost unexampled goodness, metamorphosed the apprentice of a carpenter into an historical painter.

After some previous instruction, the pupil repaired to Exeter, where he began to earn a livelihood by his pencil. He then changed his place of abode, from a provincial city to the capital, and successively

removed from a little court in the neighbourhood of Leicester-fields, first to Great Queen-street, and then to the politer air, and more fashionable situation, of Berners-street. He had been four or five years in the metropolis, however, before he began to exhibit, as it was not until 1786, that any of his pictures appeared at Somerset-house.

From that moment wealth and reputation seemed to attend his efforts ; he was first nominated an academician-elect, then a member of the Royal Academy, and what was infinitely more profitable, became a "fashionable painter." For the Shakspeare gallery he executed several pictures, and is generally allowed to excel in historical compositions.

His beggars, old men, old women, and assassins, are admirable. The portrait of Mrs. Wolstoncraft, painted by him, excels in verisimilitude ; but his characteristical excellence consists in strength ; and Reynolds himself, although he is praised for having transferred the soul into the countenance, could never give, perhaps, so bold and spirited a likeness of the male head, as Opie.

This artist has been twice married. His first match was unpropitious, and did not add much to his felicity ; his second wife (late Miss Alderson, of Norwich) is a most accomplished, and no less beautiful, woman ; and we trust that the union of painting and literature will contribute to the mutual happiness of the parties.

LORD ROKEBY.

(With a Prefatory Dissertation on Beards.)

THE *human beard*, at present deemed an unseemly excrescence, was considered by all the nations of antiquity as one of the greatest ornaments of the person; and gods, as well as mortals, were supposed to be decorated with this emblem of wisdom and virility. That of Aaron is described as flowing to his girdle, and the ambassadors of David, after having received the nearly indelible affront of being *shaved*, were advised to remain at a distance from the capital, until their beards had grown to the proper length. In many of the eastern countries this is still considered as a necessary, and even a beautiful appendage; and while the Turks carefully cover with their turbans the hair that grows on their heads, they preserve, comb, perfume, and ostentatiously display, that which springs from the chin.

The northern nations seem also to have evinced a great veneration for their beards, and it is not yet much above a century since these have fallen into obloquy and disuse even in this country: they are, however, still retained by the *serfs* in Russia and Poland, and by the *boors* in Norway.

In our own island, the upper lips and chins of the northern barons in the train of the Conqueror, exhibited

exhibited a small portion of beard, and the Saxo-Britons, who opposed them, had theirs still better ornamented. After the introduction of linen, which was but little known in this country before the conquest, beards seem to have disappeared by degrees, as if comporting only with the frowzy covering of a flannel shirt. We still, however, find vestiges of them even in more modern periods. That of James I. appears to have been broad and bushy. During the civil wars, Charles I. is both painted and described as wearing a narrow-pointed beard appended to the lower part of his chin, and *mustachios* on the upper lip; the great Algernon Sydney, in the plate engraved by Basire, from a drawing of Cipriani, prefixed to the Hollis' edition of his works, seems to have worn *mustachios* * only; but most of the republicans of that day actually nursed their beards in proportion as they polled their heads.

Both the French and Austrians appear of late to have considered whiskers as an appendage to the military dress, and from the inroads they have lately made in this country, on the human face, it bids fair to be soon nearly as much shaded by them as it was formerly by the beards.

These preliminary remarks will not appear totally misplaced, perhaps, to such as are acquainted with the person of the noble lord whose memoirs

* The celebrated Sir William Temple, who flourished at a later period, is painted by Sir Peter Lely with *whiskers*.

are here offered to the public, as his beard forms one of the most conspicuous *traits* of his person; and he is the only peer, and, perhaps, the only gentleman of either Great Britain or Ireland, who is thus distinguished.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, Baron Rokeby of the kingdom of Ireland, and also a baronet, is descended from a very old and respectable family, being a branch of the Robinsons of Struan, in Scotland, whence his ancestors emigrated about one hundred and fifty years since, and settled in Kent; they soon after acquired some lands in the north riding of Yorkshire, which came to them by an intermarriage with the heiress of Robert Walters, of Cundall, in the latter end of the last century.

Sir Septimus Robinson, Knt. father of the present peer, was gentleman usher to George II. He gave his son, Matthew, a most excellent education, but it was, perhaps, never suspected by the old courtier that he would become one of the most sturdy patriots of his age, a "Whig," according to the real meaning of the word, and as such an assertor of the true principles of English liberty, which called in William III. and placed the present illustrious family on the throne. After a good foundation of classical learning, he sent him to Cambridge, where he remained for several years; and he appears to have made considerable progress in his studies; for he procured a fellowship there, which he retains to this day.

In

In 1754, he succeeded, on the death of his father, to his estate in East Kent, and appears to have lived at his mansion there, with all the easy affluence, hospitality and splendor, that characterised the English gentry of that day, when a land-tax at about two shillings in the pound, and a trifling malt-tax, constituted their only burdens. During the winter, part of his time was spent in the capital; and in the summer season, he was accustomed to pass away a month or two at Sandgate-castle, where he enjoyed a charming prospect of the coast of France; while sea-bathing, to which he was much addicted, was to be had there in great perfection.

In consequence of his vicinity to Canterbury, and a family connexion with that place*, he had many opportunities of cultivating an intimacy with the principal inhabitants. Being a man of engaging manners, shrewd sense, and independent fortune, they determined to nominate him their representative, on the first vacancy. He was accordingly brought into parliament by them, and he faithfully discharged all the important duties annexed to that situation, for a long series of years.

We find Mr. Robinson, during the whole of the American war, one of the most strenuous op-

* This, until of late, was carefully kept up; his brother, Charles, who had been originally bred to the sea, but afterwards became a lawyer, having been successively Recorder, and one of the members for that city.

pugners of a measure pregnant with gigantic mischief, and which, by the enormous increase of our national debt, generated oppressive taxes, and became the parent of incalculable misfortunes to ourselves and our posterity. Not content with opposing Lord North with his voice in the senate, he entered the lists against him with his pen, and published a pamphlet, pregnant with sound sense, manly argument, and liberal sentiment. In fine, it was then looked upon as one of the most able productions of that day; and it struck the author of this narrative, who borrowed it, some years since, from one of his relatives, as a kind of *political prophecy*, of the calamities which actually arose out of a system of taxation without representation, and coercion without power.

He lived long enough to see all his predictions verified. Our legions either withered away in a distant country, or, if victorious, they only retained in subjection such portions of territory as were covered with soldiery, or immediately adjoined the spot on which they encamped;—all else was hostile. Conquest itself became precarious, and defeat was inevitably attended with the endless variety of evils incident to disaster in an enemy's country. At length Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga; France declared herself in favour of the insurgent colonies; Holland and Spain became our enemies; Cornwallis, who has since fought under better auspices, in India and Ireland, laid down his arms to Rochambeau and Washington;
and

and a bleeding and exhausted empire was obliged to accede to the humiliating, but necessary preliminary of American independence.

The escape of all the authors of that disastrous conflict from punishment, and the speedy restoration of one of them to power*, disgusted many good men of that day; and it required, indeed, but little foresight to presage the many evils with which *impunity* was connected. Mr. Robinson appears to have entertained these, or similar sentiments, and to have retired from the scene with a degree of virtuous indignation highly appropriate and becoming.

What contributed to this, perhaps, was his bodily infirmities. From his youth he had been subject to many severe fits of illness, and, in addition to these, his hearing and his sight were considerably affected. In this state of body and mind, he deemed it highly improper for him any longer to occupy a seat in parliament, as he could not either discharge his duties with fidelity to his constituents, or satisfaction to himself. Impressed with this sentiment, he addressed a letter to the inhabitants of Canterbury, in which he took an affectionate leave of them, and is said to have mentioned to one of the principal citizens (perhaps the late Alderman Barham), "that they ought to choose a
" younger and more vigorous man, as a successor;
" —one who had eyes to see, ears to hear, and
" lungs to oppose, the *tricks* of future ministers!"

* Lord North, in consequence of the memorable coalition!

From this period his history becomes that of a private gentleman. He resided constantly at Mountmorris, and lived equally without ostentation, and without meanness. He planted, improved, and embellished. His house was open to all respectable strangers, and he was much visited, on account of the singularity of his manners, and the shrewdness of his remarks. A great friend to agriculture, his tenants in him experienced a most excellent landlord. As for himself, he seems to have banished the deer from his park, as an unprofitable luxury, and to have supplied their place with black cattle and sheep, of which great numbers are always to be seen there.

It was most probably about this time that Mr. Robinson first permitted his beard to grow; for it must have taken many years to attain that *patriarchal* length which it at present assumes. He also addicted himself to many other seeming singularities; and imagining, perhaps, that sea-bathing was good for the disorder * he was chiefly afflicted with, he built a little hut on the beach near Hythe, about three miles from his own house, in order to enjoy the advantages resulting from it. It is most likely, however, that he indulged to excess in this *medicine*, for he frequently remained in the water until he fainted.

Finding the distance too great, perhaps, for

* A disease of the intestines.

him to walk *, he constructed a bath, so contrived as to be rendered tepid by means of the rays of the sun only ; it is immediately adjoining to his house, and he has found prodigious benefit from frequent ablutions, or rather immersions, therein †.

On

* He was generally accompanied in these excursions by a carriage and a favourite servant, who got up behind when he was tired. Mr. Robinson, with his hat under his arm, proceeded slowly forward, on foot, towards Hythe, realizing, as it were, the picture of Gray, in which he paints the venerable figure of one of the Welch poets :

—“ Loose his beard and hoary hair,
“ Stream’d like a meteor to the troubled air.”

If it happened to rain, he would make his attendants get into the post-chaise, observing, “ that they were gaudily dressed, and “ not inured to wet, therefore might spoil their clothes and get “ ill.”

† The writer of this sketch, happening to be in the neighbourhood, towards the latter end of the summer of 1796, determined to see Mr. Robinson, who had then acceded to the title of Lord Rokeby. On his way to Mountmorris, at the summit of the hill above Hythe, which affords a most delightful prospect, he perceived a fountain of pure water over-running a basin which had been erected for it by his lordship. He was informed that there were many such on the same road, and that Lord R. was accustomed to bestow a few half-crown pieces, plenty of which were always kept by him loose in a side pocket, on any *water-drinkers* he might happen to espy partaking of his favourite beverage, which he was sure to recommend with peculiar force and persuasion.

On my approach to the house, I stopped during some time, in order to examine it. It is a good plain gentleman’s seat; the grounds

On October 10th, 1794, he succeeded, by the death of his uncle, Richard Robinson, Bishop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland, and Baron Rokeby, of the same kingdom, to his honours as an Irish peer. The patent of creation was granted to that dignitary, February 26, 1777, and by it the remainder was to vest in the present lord; but, as Mr. Robinson was either angry that his nephew,

grounds were abundantly stocked with black cattle, and I could perceive a horse or two on the steps of the principal entrance.

After the proper enquiries, I was carried by a servant to a little grove, to the right of the avenue, which being entered at a small swing-gate, a building, with a glass covering, dipping obliquely towards the south-west, presented itself, which, at first sight, appeared to be a green-house. The man who accompanied me opened a little wicket, and, on looking in, I perceived a bath immediately under the glass, with a current of water, supplied from a pond behind. On approaching a door, two handsome spaniels, with long ears, and apparently of King Charles's breed, advanced, and, like faithful guardians, denied us access, until soothed into security by the well-known accents of the domestic. We then proceeded, and gently passing along a wooden floor, saw his lordship stretched on his face at the further end. He had just come out of the water, and was dressed in an old blue woollen coat, and pantaloons of the same colour. The upper part of his head was bald, but the hair on his chin, which could not be concealed, even by the posture he had assumed, made its appearance between his arms on each side.

I immediately retired, and waited at a little distance until he awoke; when rising he opened the door, darted through the thicket, accompanied by his dogs, and made directly for the house, while some workmen, employed in cutting timber, and and whose tongues only I had heard before, now made the woods resound again with their axes.

Matthew Robinson, Esq. who sat in the last parliament for Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, should have been so poorly left, after the splendid hopes held out to him, or really entertained objections to titles of all kinds; certain it is, that he declined the honorary appellation, and is said to have declared, that he could not, on any account, have accepted an English peerage, meaning thereby, perhaps, that he considered the former as merely *titular*.

Lord Rokeby is above eighty years of age; the under part of his body, by assuming a *curvature*, makes him appear shorter than he would otherwise be. There are certain oddities discoverable in his dress, which is always plain, and even mean; his forehead is bald, but, in return for this, the under-part of his face is well furnished with hair, which, however, gives somewhat of a squalid appearance to his whole person*. His food principally consists of beef-tea, which is always ready for him on a side-board; and he is very abstemious in respect to drink, water being esteemed by him as superior to all other liquids whatever. He abhors fires, and delights much in the enjoyment of the air, without any other canopy than the heavens; even in winter his windows are generally open. He was much attached to the fair sex in his youth, and even now is a great admirer of female beauty.

* There is a pretty good likeness to be met with of Lord Rokeby, in the stationers' shops at Canterbury. It consists of a half-length coloured print.

In respect to politics, his conduct through life, and to this very hour, has been eminently consistent; it is to principles, not men, that he looks up; and he seems to consider a Stewart, or a Guelph, entitled to our praise or our hatred, not on account of their names (for these have no magic with him!) but the difference of their respective modes of government.

At the last general election, he crossed the country to Lenham, and at the *Cbequers* inn, at which he halted, was surrounded by the country people from all the adjoining parts, who took him for a Turk! Thence he proceeded to the poll-booth, and gave his vote for his old friend Filmer Honeywood.

Prince William of Gloucester being lately at Canterbury, conceived a prodigious inclination to pay a visit to his lordship; and this being mentioned at Mountmorris, an invitation to dinner ensued.

On that occasion Lord Rokeby presided, with great good-nature, at a plentiful board, and evinced all the hospitality of an old English baron. Three courses were served up in a magnificent style, to his Royal Highness and his suite, and the banquet concluded with a variety of excellent wines, *tokay* in particular, which had been in the cellar during half a century!

Many ridiculous stories are fabricated respecting his lordship, and among others, that he will not permit any of his tenants to sow barley, because barley may be converted into malt, and malt

would pay a tax towards carrying on the war, which he conceives to be an unjust one, &c. &c.

The family of Lord Rokeby has long possessed a literary turn, and he himself may be justly considered as a man of letters. It was a relative of his who wrote the celebrated treatise on *gavel-kind*. His eldest sister, Mrs. Montague, has triumphantly defended the memory and genius of Shakspeare, against the criticisms, perhaps, of the greatest man of the day*. His other sister, Mrs. Scott, who died, in 1795, wrote several novels, some of which have attained considerable reputation; his nephew and successor, Morris Robinson, has a taste for poetry; and Matthew Montague, the brother of the latter, and heir to the celebrated lady of the same name, is author of a pamphlet on Mr. Pitt's administration.

As for his lordship himself, he published the valuable, and now very *scarce* tract, alluded to before; and at an age when most old men think only of themselves, he has not been inattentive to what he considers the dearest interests of his country; having, in 1797, published an excellent pamphlet, entitled, "An Address to the County of Kent, on their Petition to the King for removing from the Councils of his Majesty his present Ministers, and for adopting proper Means to procure a speedy and a happy Peace; together with a Postscript concerning the Treaty between the Emperor of

* Voltaire.

Germany and France, and concerning our Domestic Situation in time to come."

In short, his lordship, *even independent of his beard*, which alone attracts the gaze of the multitude, may be considered as a very singular man.

He lives a considerable portion of his life in water, tempered by the rays of the sun.

He travels on foot at a time of life when men of his rank and fortune *always* indulge in a carriage.

He is abstemious, both in respect to eating and drinking, amidst a luxurious age, wallowing in the excesses of both.

He has attained to great longevity, without having recourse to the aid of pharmacy, and, indeed, with an utter contempt of the venders and practitioners of physic *, whose presence he is reported to have interdicted.

He has written a sensible pamphlet, at an age when every other man (Cornaro, perhaps, only excepted) has relinquished his pen.

By temperance, exercise, and perhaps, also, in consequence of frequent bathing, his body is so braced, as to enable him to sit in winter without a fire. He has also combated, during a long life, a

* I have heard that when a *paroxysm* was expected to come on, his lordship has told his nephew, that if he staid he was welcome; but that if he called in medical assistance, out of a false humanity, and it should accidentally happen, that he (Lord R.) was not *killed by the doctor*, he hoped he should have sufficient use of his hands and senses left to make a new will, and disinherit him!

very

very infirm constitution, and a disease generally considered as fatal.

And lastly, what is, perhaps, more singular than all the rest, he has been *wonderfully* consistent ; for he has never once, in the whole course of his life, been found to swerve from his principles ; in fine, he will carry to his grave the character of being virtuous and independent in a country becoming famous for its servility, venality, and corruption*.

May the day that is to put an end to his existence be far off, and may his mind be cheered, at the last awful moment, with the recollection of his benevolence and his patriotism !

S.

* The reply of Lord Rokeby to a letter lately addressed to him by Lord Castlereagh, on the subject of the union with Ireland, is a production that would do honour to a man who had not passed his grand climacteric.

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prefatory

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New London Review, for February.

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Young Gentleman's and Lady's Magazine for February.

A work of this description has certainly been long wanted for the use of Schools. It is a well-selected and correctly-written series of Lives, from that of ALFRED THE GREAT to that of HOWARD the Philanthropist. We notice it in the Ladies' Annual Register, because we deem it an excellent book for the school-room, either in public seminaries or private families.

Ladies' Annual Register, 1798.—page 130.

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Ladies' Museum, February, 1799.

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